



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 1

February 2024

Bird the South Carolina Low Country - April 25-28, 2024

By Richard Hayes

The Spring Seasonal meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held in the South Carolina Low Country, headquartered in Charleston, at Homewood Suites Charleston Airport, 5048 International Blvd. This affords quick and easy access to some of the best birding spots in the Low Country and is a short drive to historic downtown Charleston. A city rich in history and nationally acclaimed for its beautiful landscapes and well-preserved architecture, we will gather for our meeting the weekend of April 25-28. Check-in begins the afternoon of the 25th, and field trips will continue Friday through Sunday.

Charleston's proximity to some of South Carolina's finest and most treasured natural coastal resources allows us to offer trips to habitats ranging from wild, scenic beaches to longleaf pine savannas. We expect excellent birding, and our field trips are being designed to offer participants the opportunity to enjoy the best this region has to offer. We will offer birding trips south to the ACE Basin, north to the Santee Delta, and inland to the Orangeburg Sod Farm. Destinations include the Sea Islands (Kiawah and Seabrook), Charleston Harbor (Pitt St., Patriot's Point, Ft. Moultrie), Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Dewees Island, and Folly Beach area hotspots (including little known Ft. Lamar), state wildlife management areas north and south, Francis Beidler Forest and Pine Bluff (new Audubon SC tract), Black River Cypress Preserve, and Caw Caw Interpretive Center.

Shorebird migration should be going strong, and we will seek out these southbound migrants as well as many of the other marsh and seabirds associated with rich coastal environments. Spring along the coast can also be particularly exciting for songbird migration, and we will explore some of the area's "migrant traps" in search of these species. Wading birds will be abundant, with Roseate Spoonbills now occurring year-round in South Carolina. This will be a great meeting to bring your spouse as we will have events for them to go see Charleston and its many tourist attractions. The booking link for hotel reservations is: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/carolinabirdclub2024homewoodsuites/> Reservations must be made by March 27. The group code for reservations is 919. Registration for the meeting opens on March 16.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), February 2024, Volume 70, Number 1. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Early Winter Bonus Trip to the Outer Banks a Hit Once Again!

By Susan Campbell

A dozen intrepid CBCers spent the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd hitting some of the best hotspots in and around Dare Co. NC. Thirteen stops netted 105 species in spite of the weather. Foggy conditions made viewing a challenge most of the weekend. Highlights included killer looks at a foraging Virginia Rail at Bodie Island, a huge raft of Redheads at Pea Island, the full complement of marsh sparrows at Split Pea, American Pipits at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge and wintering Ruby-throated Humming birds at Karen Lebing's home. We also visited the handsome (but uncountable) Black Swan that has been a regular at a small pond in Avon.



Old friends reunited and new friends were made. And the seafood (as well as the Holiday decorations) at Basnight's Lone Cedar on Saturday evening did not disappoint.

Many thanks to Steve Shultz for putting together another superlative birding adventure!



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

A Case for Pocket Parks – Western Flycatcher Discovered in Downtown Durham

Article and Photos by Alex Nickley

Morris Green Park is a pocket park in downtown Durham surrounded by medium high-rise buildings that seem to keep sprouting up like mushrooms... or like cliffs rising from tectonic forces of development and displacement. It is a pleasant surprise to see the hackberries, persimmon and willow oaks that remain in a bustling urban landscape. And it's these trees and the open patches that surround them that no doubt attracted the vagrant Western Flycatcher that found itself thousands of miles off course from its normal wintering grounds in the middle of a burgeoning southern-ish city. Or perhaps it wasn't off course at all, just destined to find Morris Green Park with its hackberries and bugs just as I found it for its vibe and sunshine. Let's go with that.

This flycatcher with its bold white eye-ring and lemon undersides will lure numerous first-time visitors to Morris Green Park. There are not many chances a resident of North Carolina will have to lay eyes on Western Flycatcher. In fact, there are only four records for the entire state. So, now's your chance to check off that state or county list with an amazing bird as it happily sallies from one branch to the next.



How was this bird detected? Quite randomly. In fact, I was simply on one of my typical bike forays to distract my mind from headier topics of love or loss (mostly love) starting from Garrett Rd to downtown. This ride incorporates Sandy Creek Park, a place I appreciate for many reasons, not least of which the corridor it provides on the ride to Pickett Rd. and then Chapel Hill Street to get one safely downtown. Bike routes y'all... like pocket parks, they provide essential spaces for interstitial nature and positive flows. Check out all that wax myrtle! The Yellow-rumped Warblers swim in and out as if through a lush coral reef. They are the fish; the air is the sea.

As I was doing pull ups trying to clear my mind, I noticed what looked like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at first. Faint impression of lemony yellow, greyish head and white eye-ring. But something seemed not quite right. That flight, that posture, that size. This is not Ruby-crowned Kinglet and it's not anything else. Better get the bins. As soon as the bird came into closer view, I knew it was a flycatcher. And knowing my birds, I knew this must be something very special indeed.

What about this park and where did it come from? I first discovered it because I used to drink beers at the craft shop across the way. It's nice sitting on the patio when the redbuds are in bloom. Or when it's Christmas and you can view that roofing factory with its vintage Christmas window decorations from a bygone era. How nice. That old house next door reminds me of a nail house or “钉子户,” an old structure that obstinately avoids looming urban development as if in defiance. And it is having character, and staying power. And it stays.

And the park is kind of like that with its willow oaks, persimmon, hackberries and occasional mega-rarity bird from the Western U.S.! By the way, who is Morris Green? Google is failing me. Anyway, here's to the pocket parks, the chance encounters, bike rides, birding and second looks! And love too. And love.

Check out the checklist:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S157889182>

Directions: To get to [Morris Green Park](#)

Park off Morris Street just south of the original (OG) Durham Bulls Park



Dovekie Invasion!

Article and photos by Andrew Thornton

Dovekies are here! On December 22nd, Jeremy Braun reported a Dovekie at the Duck Research Pier in Duck, NC. Since then, the smallest alcid in the world have shown up in numbers unlike anything in recent decades. Already there are daily reports from most of the regular spots, with a few birds here and there sitting cooperatively around some of the more popular piers, including Jennette's in Nags Head and Johnny Mercers in Wrightsville Beach. The numbers of birds moving along the coasts are the really big story, though, with several thousand reported already this winter, more than the last 6-7 years combined! Combing through past data, the only large number reports close to shore in early winter were observed by John Fussell in 1966, making this a truly spectacular phenomenon.

Dovekies are fascinating little balls of black and white feathers. Weighing in at just 150 grams, about the size of a chunky Mourning Dove, and about 20 cm long, they're a bit shorter than a typical American Robin. And yet these birds live on the open ocean, consuming huge numbers of tiny crustaceans and avoiding predators as best they can. Their stubby wings blur in flight, zipping over the ocean like a tiny monochromatic elongated softball. Thankfully, they are relatively easy to identify. Shape and pattern can be confused with the typically much more common Razorbill, but the Razorbill's white underwings and longer shape makes separating them in flight pretty straight forward, while on the water the Dovekies' diminutive size and the tiny bill make it a cinch.



As part of any large movement, there are always going to be more encounters with weak or injured birds. There are reports of Dovekies sitting on the beach, as well as wildlife rehabilitation facilities receiving weak birds. This is always sad to see in person, and if you come across a bird that looks unwell, your best bet would be to contact a local licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

For those wanting to join in and see some of what might be the largest movement so far this century, piers and inlets seem to be the best bet for seeing birds fairly close up, but they are practically



everywhere along the coasts. A scope may be required for seeing flying birds. While there are large numbers around now, there is no guarantee they will last through the winter. There are records of Dovekies breeding as early as February on islands off the coast of Greenland, and many of the reports in North Carolina have been of northbound birds. Luckily, it still seems pretty easy to find them, so we can hope they will be around for the next couple of months. It should be a very interesting winter offshore!

Carolina Bird Club Elections

Greetings Fellow Birders!

With the new year comes exciting news for all Carolina Bird Club Members - Elections!!! I know this is a highlight of your continued membership to the CBC, and we are delighted to announce that the slate of potential new board members is just about exactly the same as they were last time (and we are all awesome!).

Up for re-election we have:

Susan Campbell, President

Richard Hayes, SC Member-at-Large (second 2-year term)

Betsy Kane, NC Member-at-Large (second 2-year term)

Paul Laurent NC Member-at-Large (second 2-year term)

Karaleigh Reichart Secretary (third 1-year term)

We have a new nominee for Treasurer, **Mark Songer**, who is a relative newcomer to the club. He sent this background by way of introduction:

"Mark is a resident of Greenville SC since April 2023 and has learned a lot from the past three CBC meetings about birding in the Carolinas. He has been a volunteer treasurer for nonprofits focused on nonpartisan voter education and environmental advocacy while living in Key West, Florida for 19 years. His career also included working as CFO and finance director for nonprofits in Key West at the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys and an AIDS service organization. Mark and his wife Lois have shared the past 36 years and found lots to like about living in downtown Greenville, with abundant opportunities for entertainment, interesting restaurants and wonderful parks that take advantage of the scenic Reedy River. He is looking forward to supporting the CBC education and conservation programs."

We are also thrilled to announce that **Kevin Burke**, the famous birder from Hendersonville, is interested in joining our august ranks as a North Carolina member-at-large. According to Kevin:

"Kevin Burke is originally from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He grew up running around in the woods and trails of Shenandoah National Park. His family spent many summers camping and hiking in the park. One of Kevin's favorite activities was jumping in the river and turning over every rock to see

what was underneath. This eventually earned him the nickname "Hellgrammite Kid." This early exposure to the natural world has vaulted into a lifelong obsession with the outdoors. Kevin was introduced to birding while spending summers in Rhode Island at his grandmother's house. She would point out all the feeder birds and help him identify them. These early encounters helped foster a love for birds. An early Ornithology class at Hocking College in Ohio rekindled his love for birds. He has been birding every day since. He went on to get a Bachelor of Science in Ecotourism and Conservation Ecology from the University of Idaho.

Kevin has been involved with leading bird trips in some capacity for almost 20 years. He has led birding trips all throughout the United States, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. His birding journeys have also taken him to some spectacular locations such as Portugal, Colombia, The Bahamas, and Canada. This is truly a lifelong obsession. He currently resides with his family in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Kevin's wife and two kids also enjoy birding. They have fun kayaking, hiking, and camping in the mountains that surround their home. One of their favorite activities is jumping on the paddle board and kayaks and leisurely floating the French Broad River near their house."

If you have a friend or fellow birder who would like to volunteer to join the Board of the Carolina Bird Club, just send us their name and contact information. We are always on the lookout for folks who are interested in getting more involved with the club.

--Respectfully submitted by the CBC Nominating Committee



Snow Buntings were a major field trip attraction at the Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting. As many as 26 individuals were reported during the weekend of January 19 to 21 around the Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station. Other weekend highlights include Black-headed Gull, Ash-throated Flycatcher, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Clapper Rail, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, among many other species. Photo by S. Dowlan.

Welcome New Members

Tim Carstens Sylva, NC	Jerred & Perry Copeland Cary, NC	Stacy & Joseph Weiss Greenville, NC
Jacquelyne Adams Tracy Roof Fletcher, NC	Jill Peleuses Wilmington, NC	Scott Wietecha Lexington, SC
Joan Bakarich Cornelius, NC	Kimberly & Steve Heiselman Asheville, NC	Dwight Mirmow Santee, SC
Phillip Julian Supply, NC	Mary Ann & Andrew Simpson Lavonia, GA	Deborah Krause Orlando, FL
Stephen Brooks Carey Jefferson Durham, NC	Allen & Martha Clayton Greenville, NC	Nick Bui Durham, NC
Tayler Caudle & Allison Hunt Dallas, NC	Ellen Randel Catharpin, VA	Evangelyn Buckland Wilmington, NC
Katherine Kezon Columbia, SC	Scott Quaranda Darcy Kinsey Barnardsville, NC	Valerie Van Arsdale Shrader Asheville, NC
Kim Jernigan Burlington, NC	Steve Kroeger Emry McKinney Raleigh, NC	Bobbi Fife Leland, NC
Kevin Burke Hendersonville, NC	Janet & Jason Jacobs Matthews, NC	Michael Moss Kill Devil Hills, NC
Leigh Anne Wilson Asheboro, NC	Mark & Teresa Thomas Spruce Pine, NC	Deceased Member Walter Kent





Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring Meeting at Charleston, SC – April 25-28, 2024

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC

Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Jared Miles, Charlotte, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Barbara (Kitty) Reynolds, Asheville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submission of Volume 70, Issue 2 is
February 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2023.



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 2

April 2024

CBC Spring Birding Weekend in the South Carolina Lowcountry

April 25 through April 28, 2024

by Richard Hayes

The Spring Seasonal meeting of the Carolina Bird Club will be held in the South Carolina Lowcountry, headquartered in Charleston. This affords quick and easy access to some of the best birding spots in the Lowcountry and is a short drive to historic downtown Charleston. A city rich in history and nationally acclaimed for its beautiful landscapes and well-preserved architecture, we will gather for our meeting the weekend of April 25-28.

Check-in begins the afternoon of the 25th and field trips will continue Friday through Sunday. Charleston's proximity to some of South Carolina's finest and most treasured natural coastal resources allows us to offer trips to habitats ranging from wild, scenic beaches to longleaf pine savannas. We expect excellent birding, and our field trips are being designed to offer participants the opportunity to enjoy the best this region has to offer. We will offer birding trips south to the Bear Island and Donnelly WMA and ACE Basin, north to the Santee Delta, and inland to the Orangeburg Sod Farm.

Destinations include the Sea Islands (Kiawah and Seabrook), Charleston Harbor (Pitt St., Patriot's Point, Ft. Moultrie), Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Dewees Island, Folly Beach area hotspots (including little known Fort Lamar), Francis Beidler Forest and Grassland (new) and Santee WMA, Black River Cypress Preserve, and Caw Caw Interpretive Center. Wading birds will be abundant, with Roseate Spoonbills are now occurring year-round in South Carolina. There will be several opportunities to see the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker!

We will also offer boat rides to Bull Island (extra cost) and a rarity chase on Sunday. In addition to our exciting slate of field trips led by knowledgeable local birders, participants have an opportunity to enjoy excellent evening presentations on bird-related topics. We are even planning trips in the Charleston area for your spouses from shopping on King Street, horse carriage rides, and plantation tours! So, make your plans and register soon!

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), April 2024, Volume 70, Number 2. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Our meeting headquarters is the Homewood Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport, 5048 International Blvd, North Charleston. It is conveniently located near I-26 and I-526, providing quick access to birding hotspots in all directions, and only 15 minutes away from downtown Charleston. Special room rates are being offered to CBC members for \$139/night (not including taxes). To reserve a room, contact the Homewood Suites directly at 1-843-735-5000, and be sure to identify yourself as a Carolina Bird Club participant. Any requests for special room arrangements may be made at the time of your reservation.

The reservation cut-off date for these rates is March 27, 2024, so please don't delay. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m., Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. There is not a restaurant, but many good restaurants can be found within a mile! Registrants arriving on Thursday evening, April 25th, may pick up their registration packets that evening. The hotel will be the location for our evening programs and other social events related to our meeting.

Join us on Friday evening to experience the amazing banding exploits of our own Susan Campbell. Susan Campbell is a wildlife ecologist who has worked across North Carolina for over twenty years. Most of her experience is with birds although she specializes in species interactions, habitat and conservation. Susan is a writer and educator as well as a researcher. She is a research affiliate with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and is the North Carolina repository for hummingbird records and information. For over twenty years, she has been studying not only Ruby-throated Hummingbirds year-round here but also wintering hummingbirds in the colder months. Furthermore, Susan's research will be one of the foci of the fledgling Cape Fear Bird Observatory that she helped found during 2021.

Saturday evening at our banquet, we will hear about the exploits of one of South Carolina's best-known naturalists, Aaron Given! Aaron has been a Wildlife Biologist for the Town of Kiawah Island since 2008. He grew up in Oswego, IL (a far suburb of Chicago) and graduated with a B.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University in 2000. Aaron went on to attend Southeast Missouri State University where he received a M.S. in Wildlife Biology in 2005. In graduate school, he studied the wintering ecology of yellow rails in coastal Texas. This is where he got his first exposure to bird banding and was fascinated with being able to study and observe the birds in such fine detail.

His primary research interest is in ornithology, with a special focus on avian ecology and management, passerine migration ecology, and secretive marsh bird ecology. Aaron is a member of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee and is also a statewide eBird reviewer, but focuses on Charleston and Berkeley Counties of South Carolina. Aaron is also serving as 2nd Vice President of the Eastern Bird Banding Association. When not working, he enjoys birding, creating wildlife habitats in his yard, and managing a small flock of chickens in his backyard.

A more in-depth program agenda will be provided to registrants at check-in. We hope you will join us for an exciting weekend of birding and presentations!



CBC Spring Birding Weekend Trip Schedule

FRIDAY HALF-DAY MORNING TRIPS

- 1 Francis Beidler Forest and Grasslands
- 2 ACE Basin NWR
- 3 Bear Island WMA
- 4 Donnelly WMA
- 5 Edisto Nature Trail
- 6 Lighthouse Heritage Preserve (Folly Isl.)
- 7 Francis Marion National Forest

FRIDAY HALF-DAY AFTERNOON TRIPS

- 8 Caw Caw Interpretive Center
- 9 Seabrook Island
- 10 Mingo Point/Kiawah Island Boat Tour
- 11 Dewees Island
- 12 Old Santee Canal Park
- 13 Ft Moultrie/Sullivans Island
- 14 Pitt Street/Patriot's Point

FRIDAY ALL-DAY TRIPS

- 15 Santee WMR Cuddo/Bluff
- 16 Cape Romain/Bull Island
- 17 Black River Cypress Preserve
- 18 Botany Bay

SATURDAY HALF-DAY MORNING TRIPS

- 19 Caw Caw Interpretive Center
- 20 Santee WMR Bluff Unit
- 21 Bear Island WMA
- 22 Donnelly WMA
- 23 Edisto Nature Trail
- 24 Ft Lamar/Melton Demetre Park

SATURDAY HALF-DAY AFTERNOON TRIPS

- 25 Mingo Point/Kiawah Island
- 26 Dewees Island
- 27 Orangeburg Sod Farm
- 28 Old Santee Canal Park
- 29 Ft Moultrie/Sullivan's Island
- 30 Pitt Street/Patriot's Point

SATURDAY ALL-DAY TRIPS

- 31 Cape Roman/Bull Island
- 32 Santee Coastal Reserve and Delta
- 33 Black River Cypress Preserve

SUNDAY

- 34 Rarities

CBC Spring Birding Trip Descriptions

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 1 – Francis Beidler Forest and Grassland (Audubon, SC). This Audubon sanctuary contains a portion of what is considered the largest remaining old-growth cypress-tupelo swamp in the world, known as Four Holes Swamp. Participants will experience the majestic wonder of this swampland along a 1.75-mile boardwalk. Birds we hope to find include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, as well as other wading birds, including Wood Stork, a variety of woodpeckers, owls, and migrating songbirds. A Limpkin was recently observed and photographed here. Beidler has also opened a Grassland sanctuary -- by maintaining native grassland habitat, we are creating a space that is attractive to birds like Painted Buntings and Northern Bobwhites.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms available Access: \$12/person fee. Participants should be prepared for possible mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and bringing insect repellent.

Trip 2 – ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge: The ACE Basin NWR lies in the heart of the ACE Basin, “One of the last great places on Earth.” We will bird the Grove Plantation area, in which habitat types are mixed hardwood-pine, bottomland hardwood, longleaf pine, and early successional grasslands/field. The location hosts a diversity of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and passerines. This area is known for Wood Storks, Bald Eagles, other raptors, and the exceptional diversity of migratory land birds.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour. **Facilities:** Restrooms at Refuge Office.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, and water as needed. No fee.

Trips 3 & 21 – – Bear Island Wildlife Management Area: Managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Bear Island ranks as one of South Carolina’s top birding destinations. It consists of 17,000 acres in the heart of the ACE Basin, a multi-partnered complex of significant wildlife resources and habitats. It is also an Important Bird Area. Bear Island consists of brackish managed wetlands, marshes, hardwood and pine forests, and open fields. It is accessed by miles of dikes that offer opportunities to see a variety of birds such as Mottled Duck, birds of prey including Barn Owl, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, American White Pelican, Least Bittern, American Avocet and others. Depending on water level conditions, Bear Island can be excellent for migrating shorebirds and transient songbirds.

Approximate travel time: 1 hour 15 minutes. **Facilities:** No public restrooms are available at Bear Island. Please bring lunch, drinks, and snacks. **Access:** We will mostly be driving and walking dikes in the area. Participants should be prepared for full sun exposure and mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing, insect repellent, and sunscreen. No fee.

Trips 4 & 22 - Donnelly WMA - Managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Bear Island ranks as one of South Carolina’s top birding destination, birds include the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Wood Duck, Mottled Duck, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Least Bittern , Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Mississippi Kite, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Greater Yellowlegs Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red Cockaded Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-Rumped Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Bachman's Sparrow, Painted Bunting , and Rusty Blackbird.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms available.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. No fee.

Trip 5 & 23 – Edisto Nature Trail: The Edisto Nature Trail is in Jacksonboro and is a premier SC nature trail. There are two loop trails, the longest being about 1.5 miles. Walking can be slippery and on uneven ground with roots. This area supports open mature pines, hardwood forests, bottomland hardwoods, and bald cypress stands. Forest species abound here; vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and hawks and owls.

Approximate Travel time: 50 minutes. **Facilities:** There are no facilities, a truck stop is approximately 1 mile from the trailhead, with adequate restrooms, food, and drinks.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. No fee.

Trip 6 - Lighthouse Heritage Preserve (Folly Island): Lighthouse Heritage Preserve is a county park located at the north end of Folly Island. It is the site of an old Coast Guard station, provides a resting and foraging area for passerines migrating, and is a migrant “trap” during periods of active migration along the coast. There is extensive maritime forest, beach and dune habitat, open ocean, and extensive

exposed mud flats and exposed sand bars at or near high tide. All of these areas provide excellent habitat for resident and migrant species. Shorebirds, terns, gulls, and passerines.

Approximate Travel time: 1 hour. **Facilities:** Restrooms, snacks, drinks, and food are available prior to arriving at the Preserve in the town of Folly Beach.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. There are many places locally on the island to obtain food and water.

Trip 7 - Francis Marion National Forest: There are Red-cockaded Woodpeckers here along with other open mature pine species: Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Summer Tanager. The drive goes through the swamp where we will find migrant passerines and other forested wetlands species. This trip is mostly for forest birds, both upland pine and forested wetlands, and includes mature and early successional habitats of these forest types.

Approximate Travel time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** There are no restrooms here, but there are convenience stores on the way that provide restrooms, water, and snacks.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. There is a store in Awendaw that provides restrooms, food, and drinks. No fee.

Trips 8 & 19 – Caw Caw Interpretive Center- Located near Ravenel, this Charleston County Park is situated on land that was once historic rice plantations. The park consists of 1,000 acres of diverse coastal habitats including cypress/tupelo swamps, a tidal saltmarsh, freshwater and brackish water impoundments, and upland and bottomland forests. The property is accessed by six miles of trails and offers easy and quality birding. Over 250 species of birds have been documented in the park, and we hope to find marsh and wading birds, owls, vireos, wrens, migrant warblers, and other passerines.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms available.

Access: \$2/person fee to enter the County Park. This trip will involve easy to moderate walking.

Trip 9 – Seabrook Island: This is the largest sea bird nesting area north of Florida and an important site on the bird migration map. The diverse ecosystem of freshwater ponds, salt marshes, maritime forests, and natural beaches attract a large population of year-round resident birds and migratory birds in each season. Pack your binoculars, sunscreen, sunhat (and bug spray!), and explore the best birding spots on Seabrook Island.

Trip 10 – Mingo Point/Kiawah Island and Boat tour (maximum of 12 persons): This special trip will include birding in a maritime forest, with a visit to a bird banding station and birding at the new Johns Island County Park. We will most likely see a good variety of migrating passerines (warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos). We then will board a boat for 2 hours, birding the Kiawah River. The Kiawah River and its surrounding tidal creeks, oyster beds, and mud flats provide an abundant array of migratory, shore, and wading birds. Come join us as we cruise the saltmarsh and witness the daily life of the river's avian species. Cost is \$45.

Trips 11 & 26 – Dewees Island: Dewees Island is a private island that is zoned for Natural Resource Management. There is a conservation easement over the island and there are many ongoing conservation projects on the island with many local partners. Birding will be done by golf cart and access is by ferry. This island has pristine habitats of beach and dune, where at high tide shorebirds, terns, and gulls congregate. Other pristine habitats are the tidal marsh and maritime forest. Old House Lagoon holds waterfowl, and wading birds are numerous, and this is one of the best spots for Roseate Spoonbill. During migration shorebirds abound, along with passerines in the forests, and raptors in the skies.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** Ferry cost is \$40.

Trip 12 & 28 – Old Santee Canal Park: Old Santee Canal Park commemorates the area's rich history and habitat. Among its attractions are the Stony Landing House, built in 1843, and four miles of boardwalks

that meander through the quiet backwaters of Biggin Creek and its surrounding swamp. Beyond its historical offerings, the park has become a popular destination for bird watchers, hikers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The park has many rich habitats, from pine trees, mixed hardwoods, open fields, and freshwater swamp, which allow for a wide diversity of species any time of year. The location along the Cooper River and proximity to Lake Moultrie make it an ideal spot during spring and fall migration. Currently boasting 170 species on eBird, come discover this hidden gem. Likely birds include migrant warblers, wading birds, owls, raptors, and ducks.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms, AC, water fountain.

Access: \$3/person, \$2/seniors.

Trip 13 & 29 – Fort Moultrie/Sullivan’s Island: Fort Moultrie and Breach Inlet are on Sullivan’s Island, with Fort Moultrie now known as the migrant hotspot around the Charleston Harbor. Fort Moultrie supports grasslands, maritime forest, beach and dune, the Intracoastal Waterway, and includes a nature trail through the forest bordering the dunes and beach. Migrating passerines and grassland birds can be in high numbers here, along with migrating hawks, falcons, and eagles. Breach Inlet is located between Sullivan’s Island and Isle of Palms, and is well known for migrating shorebirds (especially Red Knot), terns, gulls, with some sea ducks and seabirds later in the season. Recent rarities here were Gray and Tropical Kingbird.

Approximate Travel time: 35 minutes. **Facilities:** Yes, at Ft. Moultrie Visitor Center **Access:** Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. There are many places locally on the island to obtain food and water. No fee.

Trip 14 & 30 – Pitt Street Causeway/Patriot’s Point: These hotspots are in Mount Pleasant, SC. Pitt Street Causeway will be birded at low tide when the mudflats are exposed, attracting shorebirds, wading birds, terns and gulls. Reddish Egret is sometimes found here. This is a great spot for swallows, wrens, warblers, and raptors during migration. Patriot’s Point is nearby, is known for migrating passerines, and there is an observation platform overlooking the harbor for views of water birds and waterfowl.

Approximate Travel time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** There are no restrooms at these places, but there are numerous convenience stores nearby with restrooms, food, snacks, and drinks.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. No fee.

Trip 20 – Santee National Wildlife Refuge (Bluff Unit): Situated on the north shore of Lake Marion, opposite the town of Santee, this NWR has about 71,000 acres of open water and marsh and about 3,000 acres of uplands. Vast open fields are managed primarily for wintering waterfowl. Wright's Bluff Wildlife Trail, with a short boardwalk, also includes a high observation deck which offers sweeping vistas. Raptors, including Barred Owls and Bald Eagles, are here year-around, as are numerous Wood Ducks. The Bluff Unit is especially good for migrating shorebirds and passerines. Top Ten SC Birding Hotspot!

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes. **Facilities:** No public restrooms are available at the refuge but there is a nearby service station with facilities, and some food and drinks.

Access: Some birding is by car, but mostly on foot on trails and service roads. Participants should be prepared for mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent, and please bring sunscreen. No fee

Trip 24 – Fort Lamar/Melton Demetre Park: Fort Lamar and Melton Demetre Park (Sunrise Park) are two little known yet very productive birding areas in the Charleston Harbor. Fort Lamar is a Civil War era fort on James Island. It is primarily maritime forest surrounded by tidal marsh and can be full of migrant passerines - 22 species of warblers have been observed here. Surrounded by tidal estuary, wading birds, terns, and other marsh associated species are also found here. Sunrise Park is also on James Island and on the southern side of the harbor, with open views of the shoreline and harbor. Migrating passerines, waterfowl, water birds, and passerines can be found in this small area. **Approximate Travel time:** 40

minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms are available at Sunrise Park, but not Ft. Lamar. There are numerous convenience stores/service stations along the way to provide facilities.

Access: Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. There are many local places to obtain food and water and lunch if necessary. No fee

Trip 25 – Mingo Point/Kiawah Island: Mingo Point and destinations on Kiawah Island offer extensive salt marsh, maritime forest, and dunes and beaches to locate resident and migrating birds. Mingo Point provides habitat for gulls, terns, wading birds, raptors, warblers, and dozens of other passerines that migrant along the coast. A walk out to the high tide roost on East Beach should produce high numbers of species, including shorebirds, terns, gulls, and wading birds, possibly Reddish Egret.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour. **Facilities:** Restrooms are available at Mingo Point and just outside the entrance to the gated communities.

Access: Birding at Mingo Point is an easy walk, and birding on Kiawah Island proper will be by van or driving and stopping. No fee.

Trip 27 – Orangeburg Sod Farms: The Orangeburg Sod Farms are privately owned, allowing visitation by birders. This area is well known for its sometimes-spectacular shorebird migration, with specialties such as American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Other local residents include grassland and open field species such as Northern Bobwhite, Common Ground Dove, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike and others.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes. **Facilities:** Restrooms and food stops will be available in route.

Access: Birding at the sod farms will involve mostly roadside stops but conditions can be muddy. Do not drive on the sod and birders must respect the grounds and work crews to have continued access to this area. No fee.

Trip 34 – Search for Rarities: Attempts to relocate rarities that had been seen over the weekend

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 15 – Santee National Wildlife Refuge (Bluff and Cuddo Units): The Bluff and Cuddo Units of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge encompass open water, hardwood and pine forests, freshwater marsh, cultivated fields, old fields, impoundments, and cypress swamps. This refuge is known for waterfowl and water birds, but the forests, vine tangles, and fields are especially productive for migrating passerines and many grassland species.

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes. **Facilities:** No public restrooms are available at the refuge but there is a nearby service station with facilities, and some food and drinks.

Access: Some birding is by car, and some on foot on trails and service roads. Participants should be prepared for mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent, and please bring sunscreen. No fee.

Trip 16 & 31 – Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and Bulls Island: Located 20 miles from Charleston and accessed only by boat, Cape Romain NWR's 66,000-acre ecosystem of barrier islands and saltmarsh habitats extend 22 miles along the coast. This is the gem of the South Carolina coast and a must for birding in the low country. This special resource is part of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, being of international significance due to its high conservation value and educational importance. It was also recently designated part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Participants on this trip will explore by boat the saltmarsh estuaries at different tides, seeking out concentrations of migrating shorebirds, marsh (sparrows and rails) and wading birds, gulls, and terns. After exploring the estuaries and marshes, we will then debark for land-birding on Bulls Island, where we hope to pick up migrating raptors and songbirds, including warblers, vireos, tanagers, flycatchers, etc. Our boat leaves at 7:30 a.m. and our estimated return is 3:30 p.m. to Garriss Landing. Nearly 300 species have been observed here. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to departure (7 a.m.). This

field trip is a special charter through Coastal Expeditions and there is a \$60.00/person fee, and cash, check, and cards (fee) are accepted on site at Garris Landing.

Approximate travel time: 45 minutes to Garris Landing, located at the end of Bulls Island Road near the small village of Awendaw. **Facilities:** Public restroom at Garris Landing and near the Dominick House on Bulls Island. **Access:** Some of our time will be spent on open water in a boat in route to Bulls Island. At Bulls Island, expect a long hike that is easy to moderate walking conditions and through loose, possibly muddy soils. Depending on weather, participants should prepare for full sun exposure and carry insect repellent. Bring any food, lunch, and water/drinks. \$65 fee.

Trip 17 & 33 – Black River Cypress Preserve: Black River Cypress Preserve is in Georgetown County and is a private property conserved by The Nature Conservancy. It is approximately 500 acres and includes extensive Bald Cypress stands in the Black River watershed. Other habitats include mature pine stands, bottomland hardwoods, and early successional shrub/scrub areas. This area is being developed for passive recreation and very much under-birded. Expected species are mature forest and early successional migrants, as well as the many resident species. One thousand-year-old cypress trees are here, as are many oxbow lakes. Forested wetland and forest species are numerous here, as are hawks and owls. **Approximate Travel Time:** 1 hour 10 minutes. **Facilities:** There are restrooms at the entrance. Food, drink, and snacks should be obtained ahead of time or along the route.

Access: There are several miles of trails within the Preserve, all with relatively even surfaces. No fee.

Trip 18 - Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve/ Wildlife Management Area: Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area is managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The property is 4,630 acres and is a mix of pine and hardwood forest, agricultural fields, coastal wetlands, and a barrier island. We will drive leisurely through the maritime forest and observe resident and migrant passerines, including flycatchers, warblers, vireos, thrushes, buntings, and sparrows. The vast sunflower and cropped fields provide habitats for many seed-eating species. We will spend some time looking for these species and Common Ground Dove. We will then take a short round trip hike of approximately 2 miles to the beach at low tide where we hope to see many shorebirds feeding in the relict marsh. Approximately 30 species of shorebirds have been recorded at Botany Bay, and this will be the peak of shorebird migration. Participants should be prepared for mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent, and please bring sunscreen.

Trips 32 – Santee Coastal Reserve and Delta: Designated an Important Bird Area, Santee Coastal Reserve encompasses 24,000 acres of varied habitat, including pine forests, freshwater, brackish and tidal wetlands, and agricultural fields. Look for species typical of longleaf ecosystems, including Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Waterfowl, rails, and a variety of marsh wading birds, bitterns, and migrating shorebirds and passerines are expected. The Big Well wetlands behind the office are now specifically managed for shorebirds. Santee Delta is an adjacent 1,700-acre resource containing remnant historic rice fields and bottomland hardwoods. It can be very good for rails.

Approximate travel time: 1 hour 15. **Access:** Mostly birding by car on the entrance road to the office complex, but most by walking on dirt roads and dikes once parked. Participants should be prepared for mosquitoes by wearing appropriate clothing and insect repellent, and please bring sunscreen.



Important Tips for the Spring Trips!

- The times listed are when the cars are lined up in the parking lot and leaving. Please be there at least 10 minutes early and identify yourself to the leader.
- Field trip leaders cell phone numbers will be provided. · If you decide not to go on a trip, either scratch through your name beforehand on the supplied lists or show up at the meeting place and tell someone.
- Please be sure to check the trip sheets at the registration desks for any changes to the field trip details! · There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips emailed to you in advance and copies will be provided at registration with field trip sheets.
- All trips depart from hotel in the parking lot. Look for the placard with your trip number. There will be a sheet with all directions for your trips e-mailed to you in advance. Please bring it on each trip as caravans sometimes break down, and, if so, you'll still be able to get to the trip site. Get the leader's cell number before you leave, just in case.
- Plan to take snacks and beverages with you, and be sure to pack a lunch for the all-day trips.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent should be brought along on all trips.
- Please check weather conditions for the need of rain gear.
- We try to take as few vehicles as possible on field trips in order to save fuel, make caravanning easier, and to make better use of the limited parking that exists at some stops. Please plan on carpooling, and if you would like to drive and have room for new or old friends, please let your trip leader know when you arrive for your outing.



CBC birders at Botany Bay, South Carolina at the in September, 2023. Photo by Al Hooks

CBC Spring 2024 Charleston, SC Registration Form
Registration begins Saturday, March 16th @ 2pm.
Register online for best availability of field trips at
www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$35 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Buffet Dinner (A Vegetarian dish is on the buffet line)
 _____ x \$45 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for Field Trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.

Meeting registration at the door costs \$45.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Special Hotel pricing ends on **March 27, 2024**. The Homewood Suites group code is **919** and the Booking link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/carolinabirdclub2024homewoodsuites/>

Room Cancellations will be refunded if made by noon on March 27, 2024

Cancel your CBC registrations by noon on April 15, 2024 --please contact the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

A Fun CBC Winter Meeting at the Outer Banks

By Susan Campbell

The Club had yet another very successful weekend of winter birding and socializing on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Well over 100 participants spent Friday, Saturday and a good part of Sunday bundled-up ogling a variety of species from hawks to hummingbirds, swans to Razorbills and more. A few mammals tried to steal the show in places: at least one Red Wolf on Alligator River NWR as well as pair of Otters and a Beaver at Mattamuskeet.

The tally for the weekend was 168 species. Bird highlights included the continuing flock of Snow Buntings at Oregon Inlet, Common Eider, Dovekie, and Parasitic Jaeger at Jenette's Peir, Harlequin Ducks at Duck Peir, Anhinga and Least Bittern at Mattamuskeet, Sandhill Cranes at Pungo, Ash-throated Flycatchers (yes! still more than one present there!!), Black-headed Gull and Cackling Goose at Alligator River and a California Gull at Coquina Beach.



Black-headed Gull, Alligator River N.W.R., Dare County, N.C., 19 January 2024. Photo by K. Fiala

Friday evening featured a social and an entertaining and informative butterfly presentation by Jeff Pippen. This was followed Saturday evening by our banquet and keynote by Evan Buckland. Evan, who is Co-founder and Managing Director of the Cape Fear Bird Observatory gave us an overview of Painted Buntings along the Carolina coast. Following her talk, over 100 items were raffled off in support of our Young Birders Fund. Fun was had as old friends re-united and new friendships were forged all as a result of our common love of all things feathered!



Orange-crowned Warbler, Duck Boardwalk, Dare County, N.C. 20 January, 2024. Photo by S. Dowlan

The Comfort Inn provided our lodging and main venue. As always, they worked hard to provide early breakfasts, a spacious registration area and banquet facilities as well as bargain room rates.

Many thanks to the planning committee for their efforts. Also, a big "hats off" to the volunteer trip leaders. Without their enthusiastic dedication and support the weekend would not have happened."



REPORT BANDED BIRDS!!

By Craig Watson and Lindsay Addison (Audubon North Carolina)

Birders are a passionate and knowledgeable group of people. With field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes in tow, they drive for miles and hours searching for, locating, and photographing birds. However, often when a birder finds a bird with a band or a flag, the level of curiosity and challenge rises to the next level! Birders ask themselves: should I get the band number? Will I be able to read the numbers or letters? Will I be able to record the color combinations properly? Then, the big question: WHAT DO I DO WITH THE INFORMATION ONCE I GET IT?

This has long been a point of confusion for birders, and here we hope to alleviate those concerns and steer you in a great direction for gathering band information and reporting it to the proper place. I've been birding for almost 45 years, and I admit it is still confusing to me where to report a band once recorded in the field. There are so many species banded and flagged, and so many different sites (or not) for birders to attempt to submit banding schemes and numbers. This should help you, as it has already helped me as I learned about this during the Christmas Bird Count season, discovering a flagged Red Knot on Edisto Island, SC.



Red Knot. Photo by Craig Watson

SPOILER ALERT! REPORT ALL BANDED BIRDS TO www.reportband.gov! THERE! YOU KNOW THE ESSENTIALS! FOR MORE DETAILS, READ ON!

Bird Banding

Bird banding is the practice of placing small rings, or bands, on a bird's legs in order to learn more about their movements and demographics. It's been around for over 100 years (read more about its history here www.usgs.gov/news/featured-story/usgs-celebrates-100-years-bird-banding-lab). **This scientific pursuit is overseen by the Bird Banding Laboratory, which is housed in the U.S. Geological Survey. Together with the Canadian Wildlife Service, they administer the North American Bird Banding Program.** All banding activities require permits in order to ensure the birds' health and safety, and each banded bird receives a metal band issued by the Bird Banding Lab with unique 8- or 9-digit number engraved on it. Some receive additional markers that are easier to see and read in the field, while the bird is alive and free. Therefore, all birds banding activities North America are permitted through the Bird Banding Lab and thus it houses **ALL** of the information that is needed to retrieve information relative to resightings.

With all these bands and numbers, all banding projects require data collection and data management as well—which is where birders can contribute and provide essential information. Banding research projects collect their own data when each bird is captured, but an important component of banding is resighting the marked birds, and this can be done by the researchers themselves, their colleagues, or birders and other people who just so happen to be in the right place at the right time.

What You Might See

Most typically, birders or other nature-observers will notice one or more bands on a bird's leg or legs. Most birds will have a metal band that can appear gray or even white, if the sun is reflecting off of it in a

photograph. These bands are very unlikely to be legible even with a spotting scope when the bird is alive. However, if you come across a dead bird, it's worthwhile to inspect its legs for a metal band (but also wise to take sanitary precautions when around deceased animals).

Some birds, however, will have additional markers that are intended to be "field-readable." Usually these are colorful plastic leg bands that are designed to be much more easily noticed and read when the bird is alive. Some species may have other types of markers, such as neck collars on geese or (patagial) wing tags on vultures. Depending on the banding project, the plastic bands may have letter and/or number codes on them. A spotting scope or camera with a telephoto lens can often capture these codes with a little persistence and patience. During band reading, it's important to remember not to flush the birds, just as pursuit of the perfect photo or the best look at a rarity is no excuse for disturbing the bird(s). It's also not uncommon for a birder to come in from the field and find a band in a photo that they didn't notice in the field, as was the case with the flag on the Red Knot above!

What Species Have Bands

Any bird might have a band, but some species are more likely than others to be banded. Among the songbirds, not many will have field-readable bands. A notable exception in the Carolinas is the Painted Bunting. Various projects have marked them over the years, and you may notice a colorful pattern of bands on their legs.

Shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, and their relatives), along with gulls and terns, are often found to be banded in the Carolinas, as multiple projects in- and out-of-state have focused on them. Commonly banded coastal species include the Piping Plover, Red Knot, American Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer, and Royal Tern. They tend to be amenable to band reading, as they often prefer to stand or walk. A band (or many bands) are often present among flocks of these species in the Carolinas.

What Information Is Needed

First, if there is only a metal band on the bird, and you **cannot** read the band number, you don't need to do anything (except keep looking for a bird with a field-readable band!). **If you find a metal band and CAN read the 8 or 9 digits, record the number and get ready to report the band!** When you notice a field-readable band or other marker on a bird, take note of which leg(s) the band(s) are on and where on the leg the band was. In other words, was the band on the bird's left or right leg and was it above or below the joint. If there were letters/numbers on the band, what were they? Good field notes and/or photos are always helpful. You will also want to note the date and location of your observation.

How to Report a Banded Bird!!!!

With so many different projects, how does a birder know what to do with their band observation? Who should they tell about it? Fortunately, because the **Bird Banding Lab** oversees all banding activities in North America and issues all permits for putting field-readable markers on birds, it also has an online portal for anyone to report a banded bird. Their staff confirm the observation and inform the permit holder of the resighting. The address is www.reportband.gov. This is your one-stop shop for all band reporting, so it's easy to remember and easy to do. Let's repeat this, this is your one-stop shop for ALL band reporting! You will receive information about the bird's history, and if you need



any assistance with reading the band or interpreting the website, you can contact a staff person via email and/or upload photos with your observations.



Banded Sanderling. Photo by Pamela Ford

Banding Lab.

You might wonder, but what if you saw a bird that wasn't banded under the Bird Banding Lab's authority? The Bird Banding Lab has contacts with other bird banding agencies around the world, so no matter what country your bird originated in, they have resources to match the bird with its bander and make sure the bander receives your observation. The photo of this Sanderling here shows a banding scheme that fits this category. This bird was banded in Peru, and photographed on Harbor Island in Beaufort County, but was easily tracked down using connections with the Bird

But There's Always More

There are some species that have well established and long-running banding programs and therefore have additional avenues available for reporting bands. In the Carolinas, two such species are the Piping Plover and American Oystercatcher.

Piping Plovers are a federally listed species that occurs in three populations in the U.S. and Canada: the Great Plains, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic coast. Each population has its own banding pattern and within the Atlantic population there are actually several different banding schemes. Each pattern is used by a different research entity, and they have established email addresses where banded Piping Plovers can be reported. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a website to help people determine which email address they should report their banded plover to, based on the banding pattern used. That address is

www.fws.gov/story/congratulations-spotting-banded-piping-plover-now-what. There is a handy primer on Piping Plover bands and, as you scroll down, a list of contacts. This Piping Plover was discovered in Turks and Caicos (TCI) with a black flag, tracked down to origin in Newfoundland and wintering in TCI at the same location annually.



Piping Plover in the Turks and Caicos Islands, banded in Newfoundland. Photo by Caleb Spiegel.

American Oystercatchers have their own working group, a coalition of site managers, researchers, and others who work on oystercatcher conservation and science. In the early 2000s the group established a banding scheme for the species and in 2012, they launched the American Oystercatcher Band Database which collects resightings of banded oystercatchers from both working group members and the public alike. If you see a banded oystercatcher and want to try out reporting there, the address is www.amoywg.org. Look for the "Banding and Resighting" tab at the top menu. This oystercatcher was banded in Georgia as an adult in the winter of 2016. Its banders learned where it was spending its summer when it was photographed in 2018 on Wrightsville Beach by Samuel Cooper



Banded American Oystercatcher. Photo by Sam Cooper.

Other Projects

For some other projects you may actually know the bander—such as if you have had a Painted Bunting banding project visit your feeder. Those banders may ask you to contact them directly. If you're unsure, you can always ask and see what they prefer.

Finally, there are some other websites that take sightings of banded birds, and even some social media groups for people to share images of banded birds, but the resources above, particularly

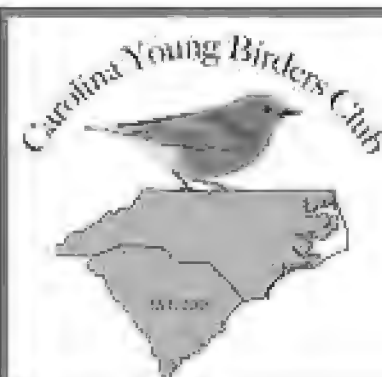
www.reportband.gov, are the best way to

be 100% sure that your sighting makes its way back to the biologists who are eagerly waiting to hear where "their" banded birds have been and provide you that same information!

www.reportband.gov



In the U.S., the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), part of the United States Geological Survey, provides scientists with aluminum bands and keeps records on all banded birds. Scientists must submit an application to receive bands from the BBL. This activity is referred to as "ringing" in the United Kingdom. Plastic color bands can be used as auxiliary markers to aid in identifying individual birds.



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org



Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring Meeting at Charleston, SC – April 25-28, 2024

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Jared Miles, Charlotte, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Barbara (Kitty) Reynolds, Asheville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submission of Volume 70, Issue 3 is
April 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2024.



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 3

June 2024

Want to Get More Involved with the Club??

by Susan Campbell

The Carolina Bird Club is always looking for members eager to get more involved with our organization. We not only have leadership opportunities on our Board but several committees that are important to our mission.

We currently are very much in need of a new member for our Scholarships and Grants Committee. Craig Watson will be retiring soon. This is an active committee and a fun one! Members work with applications from bird oriented young people-- and make decisions about spending the club's money in support of their efforts. Please let Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com) know if you might be interested in joining this committee.

As per our bylaws, nominations for Board positions are announced in January each year with the election of new officers occurring at the Spring Meeting. With the exception of the Bird Records Committees, chairmanship and membership of our other committees occurs on a rolling basis.

It does not matter your age or how recently you have become a member, we would love to hear from you if you have an interest. Check out the website for more information about what positions and committees exist. Also feel free to reach out to one of our Board members if you have any questions.



CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), June 2024, Volume 70, Number 3. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **CBC Newsletter**, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

Fall "Meeting:" A New Concept for Our Seasonal Weekend in September

By Susan Campbell

We are excited to pilot a new type of gathering this fall! Instead of getting together at a single location in North or South Carolina, members will have the option to choose from one of six birding events spread across two consecutive Saturdays. At each location a leader will guide participants to local hotspots and experience fall migration at its finest. The Old North State hosts the first meet-up, on the 21st of September, and given the southerly nature of migration at this time of the year, our friends South of the Border will host an outing the 28th of September. And with options spread across two weekends, why not attend both! In each state we will have three areas where our "day trips" will occur: one each in the mountains, along the coast, and inland.

The North Carolina locations are Sparta (mountains), Raleigh/Durham (Piedmont) and Morehead City (coast). These are all wonderful fall birding locations and hosts of past seasonal meetings or bonus trips. From warbler waves in the mountains to migrant traps in the Triangle to shorebird flocks along the coast, opportunities abound to enjoy fun, fellowship, and maybe even a new species or two for your list.

In South Carolina, the locations will be Table Rock (mountains), Congaree (inner coastal plain) and Huntington Beach (coast). Carolina birders may recall fond memories of past seasonal meetings at each of these locations. Similar to the preceding Saturday, attendees have the option to choose from among three outstanding locations and attendant suites of birds.

It is our hope that offering several meet-up locations for a day of birding will result in new members, both local to these locations as well as those from further afield, as well as offer new and interesting options for existing supporters. Also, we would love to see opportunities for families of members who work and cannot manage our Friday to Sunday weekends join, which we hope are enhanced given the proposed format.

We also hope that we will be able to enlist local leaders who are both old and new to our seasonal meeting lineup. Fortunately, several members have already volunteered to lead a day's worth of birding in one of our chosen locations. It may be that there will be some optional birding on Friday and/or Sunday for those interested as well. You can rest assured that participants will be birding some of the best fall hotspots each area has to offer!

Although the Board is still firming up the details of this meeting format, we wanted to let everyone know the dates and birding destinations now in order so that you can make plans to attend. If you plan to travel from afar, you will need to make your own arrangements for lodging.

There will be more details about specific stops that will be included at each location in the next Newsletter. But if you have specific questions now (especially as it pertains to lodging options), feel free to contact me directly.



In Appreciation of Carol Bowman

By Susan Campbell

In January, long-time Headquarters Secretary, Carol Bowman, stepped down after 11 years of service to the club. Carol's tireless efforts and enthusiasm for her work in support of "all things CBC" were exemplary. The current Club Board and I feel her retirement from the position cannot go unrecognized. And for those of you who do not know Carol well or are newer members, you may not realize how valuable she was to our organization.



Carol managed our day-to-day correspondence, finances and book-keeping. She also organized the contracts and all of the written materials for the three seasonal meetings a year. Furthermore, she attended all of the meetings to handle on-site check-in and registration. Carol also worked closely with the club Treasurer to produce quarterly reports. She worked closely with the club Board on a variety of miscellaneous tasks and initiatives. Although the position is officially part time, there were periods during the year when Carol most definitely worked more than full time hours!

Although I got to know Carol when we were both living in the Sandhills, I actually first met her when she and her husband Mel were still running their business in Charlotte. She introduced herself during an August hummingbird event and mentioned that they were planning on retiring to Pinehurst. At that point, she was very involved locally with Mecklenburg Audubon. Immediately after moving, not wanting retirement to

slow her down, Carol became a member of the local bird club (Moore County Bird Club which was to become the Sandhills Natural History Society). Among other things, she was one of the volunteers at Weymouth Woods that assisted with migratory bird banding. She remains a SNHS member as well as a Friend of Weymouth Woods. Carol continues as a team leader for the local Spring as well as the Christmas Bird Counts. Personally, I have lost track of the hours we have spent on trails at Weymouth, birding together.

When the Headquarters Secretary position opened in 2012, Carol enthusiastically applied. She had been a member of the CBC since 2004 and so knew the club pretty well. Having administrative experience in her work life, she felt very comfortable with the idea of supporting a small, non-profit organization. And clearly it was indeed a good fit!

In the fall of 2023, with not only her husband's cancer diagnosis but realizing that changes in computer technology were getting ahead of her, Carol made the difficult decision to step down from the Secretary position. But knowing that she knew the job better than anyone, we made sure she had a part in choosing her successor. Also, Carol made it clear that she planned to remain an active member of the club. So, I am confident that we will still see a lot of her in the future-- especially since she was awarded a Lifetime Membership (as well as a monetary award) at her retirement.





During the past couple months, I have received recollections from several of Carol's friends and colleagues who were on the Club Board with her over the years:

from Jared Miles (Treasurer): "I will say that Carol was always on top of everything! She knew everything that was going on with the Club at all times. And she was very patient with me as I worked to get the Treasurer's report ready every quarter. I will definitely miss working with her."

-and close friend Marjorie Ludwig writes: "Carol has many friends because **she is** a good friend herself. She's genuinely interested in friends' lives and being outgoing she easily attracts friends. She isn't judgmental about people, is dependable and always curious about learning something new. Those characteristics are just a few that made her a such an asset to CBC."

Furthermore, there are those that not only appreciated Carol's efforts on behalf of the club, but admired her late husband Mel's support and assistance. This from (past NC Vice President) Karyl Gabriel: "Samir and I remember Mel from our interactions at CBC meetings. He was always supportive, happily manning the table at CBC meetings so the rest of us could chase birds. We enjoyed the tasty baked treats he brought to help us through sometimes long CBC Board meetings. These were a surprise the first time; then we started expecting them! We mark his passing with sadness. We are glad to have crossed paths with him."



The torch has now been passed to Amanda Laurent who came to us with admittedly big shoes to fill. However, with her background in business, administration and the birding world, we imagine she is on her way to creating her own legacy with the club. Fortunately, Amanda has had Carol nearby as she has been adapting to her new role. We wish Amanda the best as she takes the wheel and helps steer the CBC valiantly into the future.



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

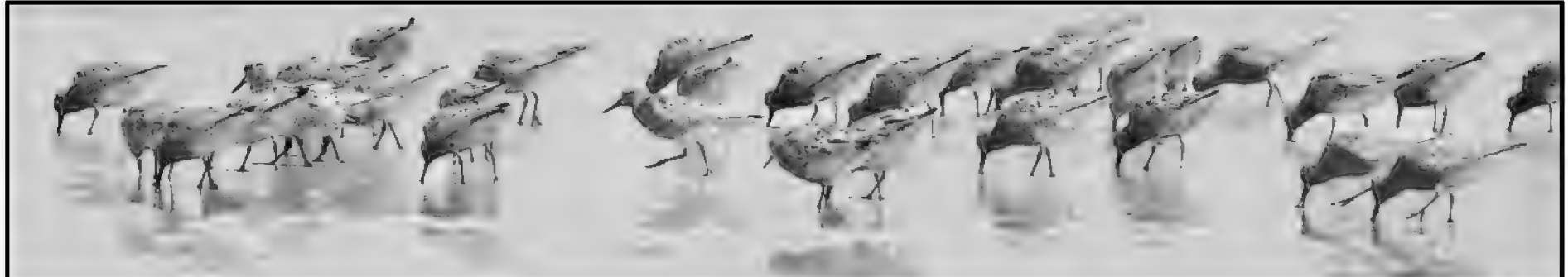
For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Please Submit Your Photos to the CBC Newsletter!

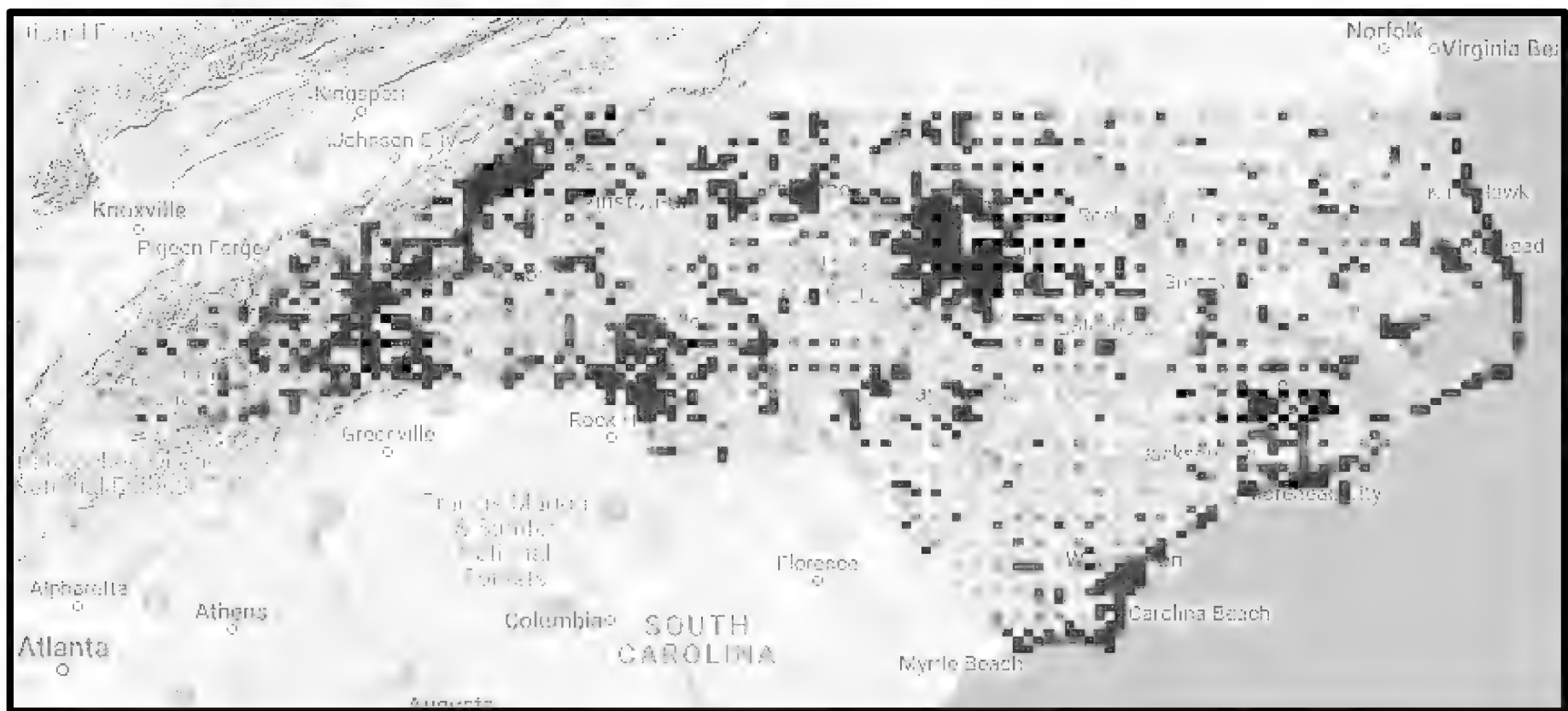
The CBC offers many great outings for its members, and many of you record your experiences with digital images taken in the field. Photos of birds, birders and habitats illustrate our collective experience and embellish our collective memory. Your photos of our events deserve to be seen in our newsletter, so please submit them to me as soon after an outing as you can. I can take care of cropping, resizing, and minor editing for sharpness and light balance, so don't worry if you are not a Photoshop master.

You may also choose to send me an email with an eBird checklist URL and direct me to whichever photos you wish to submit... I can capture them from eBird. I can't promise that I will always publish every photo, but there is almost always enough room. Oh... and don't forget to include captions that include the date, location as specific as possible, and the state and county.

Steve Dowlan, Editor, CBC Newsletter



Progress Snapshot North Carolina Bird Atlas Project



The black cells represent completed blocks as depicted on the eBird web site - <https://ebird.org/atlasnc/effortmap> on 2 May, 2024.

Wings Over Water

October 22-27 and December 6-8, 2024 at the Outer Banks

By Susan Campbell

Join us for the 22nd annual wildlife festival on the North Carolina Outer Banks. Once again, a variety of trips, workshops and presentations will be offered, many of which will be focused on birds. Photography, art and birding will be amongst dozens of different options during the six-day event. Many of the program leaders are members of the CBC.



This year we are pleased to have Kenn Kaufman with us as our special guest and keynote speaker. A keen naturalist from the age of six, Kenn burst onto the birding scene as a teenager in the 1970s, pursuing birds all over North America—an adventure later chronicled in his cult-classic book *Kingbird Highway*. After several years as a professional bird tour leader, taking groups to all seven continents, he transitioned to a career as a writer, editor, and illustrator. Most of his energy currently goes into writing books and painting bird portraits. The newest of his 14 books, *The Birds That Audubon Missed*, will be published in May 2024. Kenn is a field editor for the National Audubon

Society, a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, and the only person to have received the American Birding Association's lifetime achievement award twice.

On Saturday evening, Kenn will be speaking about his latest project: a book that is hitting shelves in early May. Two centuries ago, a handful of naturalists trekked around eastern North America, competing to find the last few bird species still unknown to the European tradition of science. What was that experience like for them? Kenn Kaufman delved into that period in history as research for his newest book, *The Birds That Audubon Missed*, and found surprising connections to our own time. Despite all the changes in the world, the adventures of those pioneers have many parallels in the experience of birding today. In this program, Kenn will celebrate discovery and rediscovery, the lure of the unknown, the complexity of nature, and the endless power of birds to delight and amaze us.

Online registration will open in June. For more information, go to www.wingsoverwater.org. The Carolina Bird Club is an event sponsor.

Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting at Charleston, SC



Great Egret nestlings at Seabrook Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, 26 April 2024



Male Painted Bunting at the Observation Tower, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Bluff Unit, Clarendon County, South Carolina, 27 April 2024

Upcoming Birding Festivals in the Eastern United States

Cape May Spring Festival, May 16-19, 2024 at Cape May, New Jersey

Have fun on birding field trips, boat rides, and more—including live music and a food truck with yummy local fare. This festival also features a music-and-multimedia performance by five local composers. njaudubon.org/cape-may-spring-festival

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, May 16-19, 2024 at Indiana Dunes National Park Visitor Center, 1215 N. State Road 49, Porter, Indiana

Peruse the Lake Michigan shoreline, with its rich biodiversity and countless bird species. This birding festival celebrates the area with plenty of birdwatching events and environmental and conservation educational opportunities. indunesbirdingfestival.com

Rangeley Birding Festival, June 7-9, 2024 at Rangeley, Maine

Known for its Boreal Chickadees, Boreal Forest is part of the Rangeley region of Maine, and home of this beloved bird festival. It's the perfect place and time to spot migrating and breeding warblers on the event's many birding trips and tours. Other fun activities include a bird-themed trivia night. rangeleybirdingfestival.com

Florida Birding and Nature Festival, October 17-20, 2024 at Tampa Bay, Florida

At this Tampa Bay birding event, you'll experience field and boat trips, seminars and talks led by wildlife experts, and a free nature expo where you can shop unique products. floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org

North Shore Birding Festival, December 5-9, 2024 at various locations around Lake Apopka North Shore in Central Florida

Go on birding field trips around Central Florida and spot local favorites like owls and woodcocks. Enjoy nature walks and workshops by day, and catered dinners featuring keynote speakers by night, at this top eBird hotspot where almost 370 bird species have been sighted. northshorebirdingfestival.com





Carolina Bird Club
1800 Meadow Ave.,
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Banner Elk, NC 28604
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall Meeting at Various Locations in SC and NC – September 21 and September 28, 2024
Winter Meeting at Emerald Isle, NC – January 16-19, 2025 in

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Mark Songer, Greenville, SC

NC Members-at-Large

Kevin Burke, Hendersonville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submission of Volume 70, Issue 4 is
June 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2024.



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 4

August 2024

CBC Sandhills Bonus Trip A Success!

by Steve Shultz

On the rare occasion that one awakens to a dewpoint of 47 degrees on June 1 in eastern North Carolina, one might expect brilliantly comfortable weather. And if that person happens to be standing at Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve in Southern Pines, they might also expect to enjoy rare flora and fauna associated with the Carolina Sandhills. Habitat dominated by, and managed for, Longleaf Pine and Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*) that harbors Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow and more.

Members of the Carolina Bird Club did just that, enjoying exploring Weymouth Woods, Moore County "horse country", publicly accessible edges of Ft. Liberty, the Sandhills Game Lands, McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery and more during the second (annual?) early summer bonus field trip to the Carolina Sandhills.

Once introductions occurred and ground rules were established (few, mainly consisting of "have a good time", "ask lots of questions", and "don't fall in") the group set out to find that rarest of the Southeastern woodpeckers, Red-cockaded. And while the pair that nested within sight of the visitor center fledged young two weeks prior, we successfully located the family unit, with prolonged views of "feeding the babies". Bachman's Sparrow proved more challenging, so the group moved to the visitor center to enjoy a hummingbird banding demonstration, with lucky participants releasing their "very own" tiny bird after all participated in the weighing and measuring process.



CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), August 2024, Volume 70, Number 4. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

After lunch it was time to find that sparrow, the one that can hardly be found outside of breeding season when it sings its beautiful song from among patches of wiregrass and hopeful oaks (which probably won't be spewing acorns anytime soon, as this habitat requires frequent burning to maintain the sparrows, woodpeckers, and other residents of longleaf pine savannah). Three to four songsters serenaded, with one sitting conveniently close by for an extended photo opportunity. Nearby canebreaks provided the chance to enjoy the area's breeding warblers, vireos, and cuckoos, while groups of woodpeckers foraged on the (slight) ridge above.

Sandhills sand might reasonably be thought of as leftover dune and beach from times with higher sea level, but most believe that the white, fast draining soil originated as outwash from mighty glaciers to the north, molded into low dunes and ridges by furious winds that blew across a lightly vegetated outwash plain.



But thoughts of soil history were largely pushed aside by tasty food and beverage at Bell Tree Tavern, where the group collected to discuss the day and nosh on bits and morsels before discussing plans for the evening.

Yes, while almost dark, the birding was not over quite yet, as the opportunity to look and listen for nightbirds beckoned. Common Nighthawks started the show well before dark, "peenting" and booming over the pines. They had to share the sky with low-flying Blackhawk and Apache helicopters (these aluminum birds not being countable on our eBird checklists). Once darkness settled in, Chuck-wills-widow took over, with one bird providing fine views and a life look for many.

Sunday dawned with a dewpoint of 56, still quite amazing for what is often the hottest part of the state, allowing for comfortable exploration of the Sandhills Game Lands. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers picked and pecked through the

pinetrees, Bachman's Sparrow sang, warblers along Drowning Creek sat briefly for identification and categorization, and folks had the unusual opportunity to view and photograph Red-headed Woodpecker and Orchard Oriole sharing the same couple of twigs. We hoped to hear bobwhite and did one better by seeing a male flutter across a field to peek out from thick hedgerow vegetation.

The trip ended after a tour of McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery in Richmond County. Here the highlights were up in the air, well above rows of shallow, square catfish ponds. Bald Eagle and Osprey (not the aluminum kind) vied for air superiority while Mississippi Kites escorted an interloping Red-shouldered Hawk out of their personal space, and then perched nearby for all to ogle.

A species countdown led to a round of "best birds of the weekend" (though we agree that all birds are "the best".) And while this year's edition of the CBC Sandhills Bonus Trip is in the books, it's not too early to start thinking about next year!

New Fall Meeting Concept for Our Seasonal Weekend in September

Instead of getting together at a single location in North or South Carolina, members will have the option to choose from one of six birding events spread across two consecutive Saturdays. At each location a leader will guide participants to local hotspots and experience fall migration at its finest. The Old North State hosts the first meet-up, on the 21st of September, and given the southerly nature of migration at this time of the year, our friends South of the border will host an outing the 28th of September. And with options spread across two weekends, why not attend both! In each state we will have three areas where our "day trips" will occur: one each in the mountains, along the coast, and inland.

We hope that by offering several meet-up locations for a day of birding, we will attract new members - both close to these locations and those from further afield - as well as provide interesting options for existing supporters. Also, we hope that this new format will improve opportunities for families of members who work and cannot manage our Friday to Sunday weekends join.

North Carolina Coast - Saturday September 21, 2024

Gathering location: **North River Wetland Preserve**, 973 US 70 Beaufort, NC. We will meet at the entrance, cars will be parked, and we will car pool from the entrance. North Carolina Coastal Federation members are allowed access for free and non-members are asked to pay a fee of \$5 per person per day.

Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m.

Leaders: John Fussell, Les Coble and others will assist.

Stops: NRWP (no facilities stop at gas station before gate) and Fort Macon State Park (full facilities are available).

Other details: Bring along your sun screen and bug spray. There will be time between locations if you wish to pick up a quick lunch or feel free to pack one to enjoy ocean side at Ft Macon. A list to consider for lodging will be available July 1, please email cssrbdr@gmail.com for these details.

An evening gathering for dinner and/or birding at dusk may take place.

South Carolina Coast- Saturday September 28, 2024

Gathering location: **Huntington Beach State Park**. Enter HBSP, cross causeway, curve right then turn left into first parking lot. Fifteen minutes to Murrells Inlet. Entrance fee is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors (age 65 and older), and \$4 for youths age 6-15. Entrance is free for children 5 and younger.

Meeting Time: 7:15 a.m.

Leaders: Julie Davis

Stops: The causeway, Mullet Pond, the Education Center feeders, Kerrigan Trail and overlook, the Carriage Trail between Mullet and Mallard Ponds, the salt marsh boardwalk and an overlook on the marshy end of Sandpiper Pond (good for rails and bitterns). We will also visit the beach briefly but will

not make the trek to the jetty. Groups will leave the park to explore the adjacent oyster recycling area and the Murrell's Inlet Pier.



Other details: We will be looking for shorebirds, rails, wading birds, hawks, migrating warblers, owls, and falcons. And of course, any unexpected or rare visitors! We encourage all to join the group after a day of birding for a nice dinner and fellowship at a local restaurant. Moderate walking required.

North Carolina Mountains - Saturday September 21, 2024

Gathering location: **Food Lion parking lot**, 381 S. Main Street, Sparta, NC. No use fee is required for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Susan Campbell, Ryan Justice, Brian Pendergraft, and Steve Shultz

Stops: We will be going where the birds are! Most of the day we will be birding along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Stops will be made at overlooks and eBird hotspots in the area. We plan to drive both north and south from the BRP access along NC 21. Heading north will take us up to Cumberland Knob area. South will mean stops in and around Mahogany Rock. Our group(s) will no doubt spend some time at the hawkwatch there later in the day. Our priorities include locating a variety of southbound warblers and thrushes as well as raptors, among others.



Other details: Important: please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy along the way. Our location at midday is uncertain but it will be scenic—and hopefully, birdy! There will be an evening gathering before dusk in Alleghany Inn parking lot. The address is 341 N. Main Street. This is a good spot to catch Common Nighthawks moving through. Also, the school chimney across the road is a known Chimney Swift roost site. We recommend staying at the Inn if you are from out of town. This motel is very reasonable and has always been “birder friendly.” Call DIRECTLY (336-372-2501) for reservations! Any online reservation system that you may find does NOT work.

South Carolina Mountains - Saturday September 28, 2024



Gathering location: **Table Rock State Park Nature Center**, 20 Table Rock State Park Rd, Pickens, SC. Entrance fee is \$6 for adults, \$3.75 for seniors (age 65 and older), and \$3.50 for youths age 6-15. Entrance is free for children 5 and younger.

Meeting Time: 8:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Laurent

Stops: We will bird the 2-mile Lakeside Trail (an easy trail) in search of migrating warblers and

waterfowl. From here we will make the short drive to the Table Rock Viewpoint to see who is hanging out at higher elevations and enjoy the great view. We will make a quick stop on the edge of Grant Meadow to look for open land species before having lunch at one of the picnic shelters.

Other details: Make sure you bring a bag lunch or be prepared to forage for mushrooms and such! After lunch we will head south to Devils Fork State Park, where we will bird the 1.5-mile Oconee Bell Trail. While the rare wildflower will not be in bloom, we will be looking for mixed flocks of warblers along the creek and pond. We will check the lake for migrating waterfowl. At the end of the day, anyone who is interested will head over to Jocassee Valley Brewing Company for dinner. They have rotating food trucks and a great selection of craft beer.

North Carolina Piedmont - Saturday September 21, 2024

Gathering locations: Ebenezer Church State Recreation Area. Meet at the swim beach parking lot near the bathhouses. Entrance fee is \$7 per car, \$5 for senior citizens 62 years of age or older.

Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Sandy Cash, Bo Howes, Marc Ribaud and others

Stops: The Triangle is a huge, well-birded area. There are many habitats and places worth visiting, and many possible routes linking them together. The exact routes will be determined closer to the Meet-up.

Durham to Chapel Hill Area:

- Falls Lake Redwood Road area at 36.060394, -78.805975
- Falls Lake Hickory Hill Boat ramp at 36.058122, -78.775011
- Falls Lake Rolling View area at 36.013940, -78.728668
- Brumley North, parking lot at 36.033741, -79.041565
- Meadow View Road Pond at 35.978121, -79.143427
- Cane Creek Reservoir at 35.948296, -79.239878
- Jordan Lake Seaforth area at 35.727304, -79.035340
- Jordan Lake Ebenezer Beach area at 35.708568, -79.023254



Raleigh Area:

- Lake Crabtree County Park: 35.845392, -78.800725
- Mid Pines Road area at 35.725184, -78.694073
- Dorothea Dix Park at 35.770630, -78.655331
- Lake Wheeler Park at 35.693906, -78.700729

Other details: We hope to have evening gatherings. Many people will be around Sunday morning to chase rarities. There are many motels in the area, easily booked online.

South Carolina Midlands - Saturday September 28, 2024



Gathering location: Congaree National Park, 100 National Park Road, Hopkins, SC 29061. No, there is no entrance fee for Congaree National Park. Parking is also free.

Meeting Time: 7:30 AM

Leaders: Jen Roberts

Stops: We'll start at Congaree National Park and bird the boardwalk in the morning, hoping to finish before the mosquitoes get too bad. From there,

we'll move north, checking the fields at Whitehouse Road Loop and onto the Riverwalk in downtown Columbia. We'll stop for lunch at a local brewery. For those that want to continue birding, we'll move north to the Lake Murray Dam as well as check out any recently reported rarities.

Other details: Some locations may be changed based on where the birds are that week and are at the leader's discretion.



**Registration is Now Open for the Annual
Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival
on North Carolina's Outer Banks!
October 22-27 and December 6-8, 2024**

www.wingsoverwater.org

This year's keynote speaker and special guest is Kenn Kaufman. He will be with us for several trips in addition to presenting the Saturday night program about his new book titled *The Birds That Audubon Missed*. The Carolina Bird Club is a major sponsor of this event. Over 90 birding, paddling, photography, art and natural history programs, covering 6 northeastern North Carolina counties and six national wildlife refuges.

CBC Fall Meeting 2024 Registration Form
Registration Begins Saturday, August 17, @ 2pm.
Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at
www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone# _____ Email Address _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$30 =
\$ _____

Meeting Registration (Student) _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Meeting registration at the door costs \$35.

<u>North Carolina</u> 9/21/2024	Please Check One	<u>South Carolina</u> 9/28/2024	Please Check One
Sparta (Mountains)		Table Rock (Mountains)	
Raleigh/Durham (Piedmont)		Congaree (Inner Coastal Plain)	
Morehead City (Coast)		Huntington Beach (Coast)	

If you plan to attend both weekends, please make sure to place a check mark beside the location you would like to participate for both NC and SC (i.e. mountains, coast, piedmont, etc.).

***Registration cost is per weekend attended.**

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 1800 Meadow Ave, Banner Elk, NC 28604

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 6pm September 14.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.



Carolina Bird Club
1800 Meadow Ave.,
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Banner Elk, NC 28604
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at Emerald Isle, NC – January 16-19, 2025

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Mark Songer, Greenville, SC

NC Members-at-Large

Kevin Burke, Hendersonville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadline for submission of Volume 70, Issue 5 is
August 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>.
Enter change of address at
<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2024.



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 5

October 2024

Let's Go South for the Winter! by Christine Stoughton, Bob Lewis, and Betsy Kane

A winter trip to the beach promises a chance to see many of our traditional wintering birds and holds the lure of a rare species. This year's winter meeting is no exception, as participants and leaders alike will sort through shorebirds, gulls, terns, loons, sparrows, waterfowl, and more in search of that rarity. Could we spot a new North Carolina record or a life bird? Join us from January 16-19, 2025 at Emerald Isle for fantastic winter birding on our barrier islands, marshes, national forest, and wildlife refuges. From Emerald Isle down east to Carteret County, we'll scour every nook and cranny to discover as many species as possible. We last visited this area in 2005 and tallied up 181 species.



Friday and Saturday night, plan on a social at the Islander Hotel and Resort to renew past acquaintances and meet others prior to hearing from Possumwoods Acres Rehab Facility here in Hubert. Saturday's speaker is still to be announced.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Islander Hotel and Resort, located at 102 Islander Dr, Emerald Isle, NC 28594.

Reservations can be made online using the code CBCCO11625 to obtain our rate, or by calling 252-354-3464. Room rates are \$89 per night for single or double occupancy, plus room tax. Be

sure to mention you are with the CBC when making reservations. All rooms have a hair dryer, coffeemaker, refrigerator, and microwave. Please note that breakfast is not served at this hotel, but there are fast food alternatives available nearby. The reservation deadline is December 16, 2024. Rooms and room rates cannot be guaranteed after this date, so be sure to reserve before the deadline.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2024, Volume 70, Number 5. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **CBC Newsletter**, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

CBC Outer Banks Trip December 14 - 15, 2024

Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other “hotspots”.

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 14, at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot the south end of the new Basnight Bridge over Oregon Inlet. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including American Avocet, Purple Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see black bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is \$75 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellant may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

This trip involves multiple consecutive hours of standing, walking on uneven or sandy surfaces, and extended exposure to the elements. I would describe the trip as “moderate” from a physical activity perspective.

To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette’s Pier.

Passing of Longtime Member Clyde Smith

Clyde Smith passed away in Raleigh on August 7, 2024 at the age of 89. He was a long-time member of Carolina Bird Club, and was editor of the Newsletter for 22 years, ending with the March/April 2000 issue. In his many years of service, he played an important role in shaping the CBC Newsletter into what it is today. I think it has been more than 10 years since Clyde attended a meeting, but old-timers will remember him as a regular. Memorial gifts may be made to Raleigh Rescue Mission, 314 E. Hargett St., Raleigh, NC 27601 or the Triangle Land Conservancy, PO Box 1848, Durham, NC. 27702.

Jesse Haaf's Arizona Young Birders Camp Adventures

Camp Chiricahua, Southeastern Arizona

In July I had the good fortune to attend Camp Chiricahua in southeastern Arizona. During this camp, I visited one national park and one state park, covered 650 miles, and saw 190 bird species. Trip leaders were Michael O'Brian and Louis Zemaitis. Many thanks to the Carolina Bird Club for making it possible for me to attend this Arizona Young Birders Camp. Below I will share some notes from a few of the most impactful days.

July 3, Tucson

After arriving in Tucson and a group introduction, we headed south to drive through a desert landscape peppered with mesquite and saguaro. After stopping at the foot of Madera Canyon, we headed up to the Santa Rita Lodge, which has a great setup of feeders. There we saw the rare Berylline Hummingbird. Also seen there were Broad-billed, Rivoli's, and several other hummers. It was a very exciting start to a great trip!



July 4, Tucson

After waking up at our hotel for breakfast and spotting a Lucy's Warbler, our group headed to Saguaro National Park to find some classic desert species. There we saw a Gilded Flicker, a Crissal Thrasher, and a Black-throated Sparrow, to name a few. Afterward, we made our way up Mount Lemmon to camp in Rose Canyon where we saw our first Virginia's Warbler and Yellow-eyed Juncos. At night, we found Common Poorwill and a Great Horned Owl.

July 5, Mt. Lemmon

Waking up to the sounds of Yellow-eyed Junco and Western Bluebirds, we started early this morning on a walk to Rose Canyon Lake. There we saw Red-faced and Olive Warblers and a Greater Pewee. Afterward, we headed up the mountain for more sky-island specialties.

July 6, Mt. Lemmon

Starting out birding at 5:00 am, we ventured back to Rose Canyon Lake, then packed up to head down the mountain towards the Chiricahuas. On the way, we made a stop at a golf course pond in the middle of the desert (Lake Cochise). There we saw dozens of Wilson's Phalaropes and a few Western and Baird's Sandpipers, among other shorebirds. Also, there were Chihuahuan Meadowlark and a few species of ducks. We made it to Cave Creek Ranch just before sundown to see Blue-throated Mountain-gem and a few other species at an amazing feeder setup.

July 7, Portal Arizona

We woke up at 4:30 am on this day to search for birds before sunrise at the Cave Creek Ranch. While there, we heard the first Elf Owl and Inca Dove of the trip. We also saw a Northern Pygmy-Owl and a Bronzed Cowbird. Heading up into the canyon, we stopped along Cave Creek to search for an Elegant Trogon and got fantastic views of a singing male near the nest. There were also calling White-eared Hummingbirds and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Driving up the canyon searching for birds, we stopped at the southwestern research station to see hummingbirds. We discovered quickly that a snake was raiding a Scott's Oriole nest so I stayed back to view the feeders. I was fortunate to see a baby Scott's Oriole that had fledged before the snake could get to it.

Heading over to the hummingbird feeders, I saw my first Violet-crowned Hummingbird. Right after leaving this spot, trip leader Michael O'Brien spotted a male Montezuma Quail running for cover. Shortly after this, we got out of our van and quickly realized it was a pair of quail with a covey of tiny chicks!



After this satisfying morning, we headed back to the ranch for downtime, which I used to watch the bird feeder setup. In the afternoon, we headed to the desert, which produced Thick-billed Kingbird and Woodhouse's Scrub-jay. We saw droves of Gambel's Quail at various stages of life, despite their average longevity being a mere one and a half years. After these finds, we headed back up the road for a rest stop at the ranch then headed out for nocturnal

birding. Making various stops to listen for owls and nightjars, we saw a cute pair of Whiskered Screech-Owls and a disturbed Acorn Woodpecker looking out of its roost hole.

July 8-15, Portal-Sierra Vista-Patagonia

Highlights for the last week included two Spotted owls, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Juniper Titmouse, Barn Owl, Bendire's Thrasher, Botteri's Sparrow, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Mexican Chickadee, Cassin's Sparrow, Rose-throated Becard, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Golden Eagle, Five-striped Sparrow, and Tropical Kingbird.

It was a once in a lifetime birding trip and I am so grateful to the Carolina Bird Club for this opportunity. For the full trip report, check out <https://ebird.org/tripreport/257411>



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 18 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Exciting News: Carolina Bird Club Partners with Birdability for Birdability Week 2024!

The Carolina Bird Club (CBC) is thrilled to announce its partnership with Birdability, the international organization dedicated to making birding accessible to everyone. Together, we will sponsor this year's Birdability Week, running from October 21-27, 2024.

What is Birdability Week?

Birdability Week is an annual celebration focused on birders with disabilities and other health concerns. This special week serves as a platform to share resources, ideas, and foster a more inclusive and welcoming birding community. Building on the success of inclusive celebrations like #BlackBirdersWeek and Latino Conservation Week, Birdability Week aims to make birding an enjoyable and enriching experience for everyone.



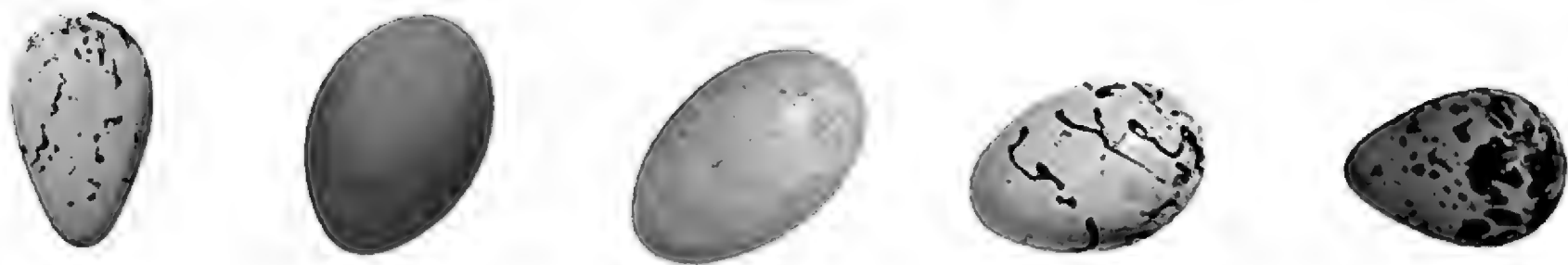
Birdability is committed to ensuring that the birding community and the great outdoors are accessible, safe, and inclusive. They focus on people with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those who are neurodivergent or deaf/hard of hearing. Their mission is not only to support current birders but also to introduce birding to those who might not have experienced it yet.

What to Expect This Year

Birdability Week 2024 promises a variety of engaging virtual events and activities designed to highlight and celebrate accessible birding:

- **Virtual Panels and Speakers:** Participate in insightful discussions with experts and advocates in accessible birding. One highlight will be the "Birding with... Birdability Captains" panel, featuring North Carolina's own Karaleah Reichart Bercaw and other Birdability State Captains. They will share adaptive tools and strategies that make birding more accessible and inclusive.
- **Workshops on Backyard Birding and Nature Journaling:**
 - **Backyard Birding Workshop:** Learn how to transform your backyard into a birding haven. This workshop will cover attracting birds with food, feeders, and natural plantings, and will include virtual tours of backyard setups.
 - **Nature Journaling:** Join Birdability Captains Rebecca Geekie, Kim Aikins, and Kathy Balman for a session on making nature journaling more accessible. Discover tips, tools, and ideas to enhance your birding experience through journaling.
- **Offbeat Photography Contest:** A unique competition celebrating the distinctive perspectives of birders with disabilities. This contest will turn the traditional "Best Photo" category on its head.
- **Bird(ability) Your Way! Weekend (October 24-27, 2024):** This event encourages birding in any way that suits you—be it a "big sit," car birding, backyard birding, or hosting an accessible outing. Share your photos and sightings to showcase the diverse ways people experience birding.
- **Birding Livestreams and Virtual Events:** Tune in for live events showcasing adaptive equipment, birding locations, and the diverse experiences of birders with disabilities. Highlights include a special BirdNote event celebrating birdsong and a session from American Trails on working with the Deaf community.

Stay tuned to CBC's Facebook page for more details and updates as we approach this exciting week in October. Participation is completely free of charge, so please join us in celebrating Birdability Week and help make birding accessible for all!



iNaturalist is the Perfect Complement to eBird

iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. Get connected with a community of millions of scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature! What's more, by recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. So, if you like recording your findings from the outdoors, or if you just like learning about life, join iNaturalist!

 **iNaturalist**

is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in the USA (Tax ID 92-1296468).

Vision: iNaturalist's vision is a world where everyone can understand and sustain biodiversity through the practice of observing wild organisms and sharing information about them.

Mission: iNaturalist's mission is to connect people to nature and advance biodiversity science and conservation.

Learn how to get started with iNaturalist at

<https://help.inaturalist.org/en/support/solutions/folders/151000552105>

Nominations Sought for New CBC Executive Committee Members

As always, at our spring 2025 meeting we will be holding elections for officers as part of the Annual Meeting of members. We will have several vacancies that need to be filled as well as a few positions with members who are eligible to serve another term that will be on the ballot.

Mark Songer (Treasurer), Bob Lewis (NC Member-at-Large) and Jennifer Roberts (SC Member-at-Large) would like to serve a second term.

However, our President, Secretary and Western NC Vice President positions will soon be vacant.

The only position that has a specific requirement of past service is President. It is our hope that the next President will be a member from South Carolina since our current President is a North Carolina resident.

If you are interested in one of these seats, the following descriptions, taken from our by-laws, might help you understand what each is responsible for:

President:

1. shall preside at all meetings of the Club (excepting the portion that deals with elections of Officers and Members-at-Large) and at all meetings of its Executive Committee (See [Article XI, Subarticle III, Nominating Committee, Number 5](#)).
2. has authority to appoint committees (See [Article XI, Subarticle II, Number 1](#) and [Subarticle III, Nominating Committee, Number 1](#), and [Species Records Committee, Numbers 2 and 3](#)).
3. shall be an Ex-officio (non-voting) member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.
4. is authorized to represent CBC at meetings of other nature organizations and commissions, and may delegate substitute(s) in absence of the President
5. shall be responsible for the Club Seal.
6. Shall pass on to successor any and all files and records pertaining to the Club as soon as possible after leaving office.

Western NC Vice-President:

1. longest in office is to preside and temporarily assume the President's functions in the absence of the President.
2. are to serve as chairs of the Awards, Membership or Publicity Committees, or any other committee chair designated by the Executive Committee.

Secretary:

1. shall record the minutes of General Meetings of the Club in which a matter for record is conducted, minutes of Special Actions (See [Article XI, Subarticle I, Number 3](#)), and of all Executive Committee Meetings.
2. shall provide copies of all minutes to all members of the Executive Committee within sixty days following all Executive Committee Meetings. Is to maintain file(s) of all minutes.
3. shall record members appointed to all committees of the Club and include in minutes.
4. shall provide, for the information of the membership, all committee appointments to the Editor of the Newsletter for publication as soon after appointments as possible.
5. shall aid the President in developing Agenda by maintaining records of incomplete actions.
6. is to provide successor all records and minutes as soon as possible after leaving office.

If you have questions or are interested in running for one of the vacancies, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Julie Davis (SC Vice President), Betsy Kane (Eastern NC Member-at-Large) and/or Paul Laurent (Western NC Member-at-Large). You can find their contact information at the club website in the Executive Committee section of the About tab.

Memories From Winter 2023-2024



Short-eared Owl at Guilford County Farm, North Carolina, 29 December 2023. Photo by Bob Lewis



Carolina Bird Club
1800 Meadow Ave.,
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Banner Elk, NC 28604
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at Emerald Isle, NC – January 16-19, 2025

Spring Meeting at Fletcher, NC – April 26-27, 2025

Fall 2025 meeting in the South Carolina Low Country (exact destination TBA) - early October

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Mark Songer, Greenville, SC

NC Members-at-Large

Kevin Burke, Hendersonville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC, hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadline for submission of Volume 70, Issue 6 is
October 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>.

Enter change of address at

<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2024.



CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 70

Issue 6

December 2024

LET'S GO SOUTH FOR THE WINTER! **Host Hotel - Islander Hotel and Resort - Emerald Isle, NC** **January 16-19 2025**

By Christine Stoughton, Bob Lewis and Betsy Kane

A winter trip to the beach promises a chance to see many of our traditional wintering birds and holds the lure of a rare species. This year's winter meeting is no exception as participants and leaders alike will sort through shorebirds, gulls, terns, loons, sparrows, waterfowl, and more in search of that rarity. Could we spot a new North Carolina record or a life bird? Join us from January 16-19, 2025 at Emerald Isle for fantastic winter birding on our barrier islands, marshes, national forest, and wildlife refuges. From Emerald Isle to Down East Carteret County, we will scour every nook and cranny to discover as many species as possible. Our 2005 meeting netted 181 species, so let's top that!



On Friday and Saturday night, plan on a social at the Islander Hotel & Resort to renew past acquaintances and meet others prior to hearing from Possumwoods Acres Rehab Facility here in Hubert. Saturday's speaker will be a representative from the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Host Hotel: Islander Hotel & Resort, located at 102 Islander Drive, Emerald Isle, NC 28594. Reservations can be made online using the **GROUP CODE CBCC011625** to obtain our rate, or by calling 252-354-3464. Room rates are \$89 per night for single or double occupancy, plus room tax. Be sure to mention you are with the CBC when making reservations. They will also honor this rate on January 15th if rooms are available – you will need to call to make that reservation. All rooms have a hair dryer, coffeemaker, refrigerator, and microwave. Please note that breakfast is not served at this hotel, but there are fast food alternatives available nearby. The reservation deadline is December 16, 2024. Rooms and room rates

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2024, Volume 70, Number 6. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

cannot be guaranteed after this date, so be sure to reserve before the deadline. With participation limits on all field trips, like the early bird getting the worm, early registration will give you the best chance for your trips of choice, so make your plans now, and we'll see you at Emerald Isle.

Online Registration opens, Saturday December 7th at 2:00 pm. Registration ends **December 29th** at noon. Registration may be extended if we have sufficient early registrants but is not guaranteed. **January 5th** at noon, is the last day for refunds if you have to cancel attendance. Also, very important— If you have to cancel, please do so online, or else notify the Headquarters Secretary by sending an email to hq@carolinabirdclub.org so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional, and you actually save CBC costs by staying with us.

Registration: Hotel lobby at entrance to ballroom on the left. January 16, Thursday 4:00 pm-9:00 pm; January 18 & 19, Friday & Saturday, 6:45-7:45 am and 12:30-1:30 pm.

Field Trip Sheets: Located in the registration room. After checking in at registration, please put a checkmark by your name on each of the field trip sheets so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Directions/Trip Info: In the interest of the environment, we are no longer printing and packaging the meeting information you receive by email, including directions, field trip descriptions, and the itinerary. Plan ahead by printing or downloading this information before you arrive. Be sure to visit the conference registration table as soon as you check in at the hotel, sign in for the meeting and check-mark your name on the field trip list so we know you have arrived.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. Please arrive at a minimum 10–15 minutes early. Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise the trip leader or meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

All Day Trips: Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. The two sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.

Hotel Returns: Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon; afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 pm. As is becoming the tradition, we will have a raffle as part of our weekend. Proceeds will benefit our Young Birders (camp scholarship) Fund. Please consider bringing a bird-related item or two for donation at the meeting. And as many of you know that regularly attend our meetings, we will also have bird books and magazines available for a small donation that will also go to the same fund.

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting Agenda
Emerald Isle North Carolina January 16-19, 2025

Islander Hotel & Resort
Check-in time is 4 pm

Thursday, January 16 4:00 - 9:00 pm Opening Registration Dinner on your Own	 Carolina Bird Club www.carolinabirdclub.org
Friday, January 17 Field Trips -1/2 and full-day Dinner on your own 6:00 - 7:30 pm Cash Bar/Social 6:30-7:00 Announcements/NCBA 7:00-8:00 pm-Program by Leslie Ruble from Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary - their quest and guest.	Start at Host Hotel Restaurants List – Registration Desk Host Hotel Host Hotel Host Hotel
Saturday, January 18 Field Trips -half and full-day Dinner on your own 6:00 - 7:30 pm Cash Bar/Social 7:15 - 7:30 pm Announcements 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Program-NC Coastal Federation 8:30 pm Species Countdown	Start at Host Hotel Restaurant List - Registration Desk Host Hotel Host Hotel Host Hotel Matt Janson - Returning Young Birder

The Carolina Bird Club is conducting a **member survey** to help plan for the future. We appreciate your time in completing this survey which should take less than 15 minutes. The survey is being conducted using Google Forms but you do not need an account to complete the survey. Results are anonymous (if you provide your email in the volunteering section, we will remove it before looking at the results).

In the next week, you will receive an email from CBC Notifier (notification@carolinabirdclub.org) with a link to the survey. Please complete the survey by November 11th.

Thank you for your participation.

Field Trip Schedule

Trip #	January 17 - Friday Morning	Time	Trip #	January 18 - Saturday Morning	Time
1	North River Wetland Preserve	7:00	19	North River Wetland Preserve	7:00
2	Fort Macon State Park	7:00	20	Fort Macon State Park	7:00
3	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	7:15	21	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	7:15
4	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	7:30	22	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	7:30
5	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	7:30	23	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	7:30
6	Shorebird Workshop	8:30	24	Atlantic Beach Pier	8:30
			25	Birding 101, Day1 - Day10,000	8:00
Trip #	January 17 -Friday Afternoon	1:00	Trip #	January 18 - Saturday Afternoon	Time
8	North River Wetland Preserve	1:00	27	North River Wetland Preserve	1:00
9	Fort Macon State Park	1:15	28	Fort Macon State Park	1:00
10	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	1:30	29	Hoop Pole & Calico Creek	1:15
11	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	1:15	30	Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods	1:30
12	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	1:30	31	Patsy Pond & Gallants Channel	1:15
13	Atlantic Beach Pier	12:30	32	Atlantic Beach Pier	1:30
14	Rachel Carson & Bird Shoal		33	Rachel Carson & Bird Shoal	12:30
Trip #	January 17 -Full Day	Time	Trip #	January 18 - Full Day	Time
16	Shackleford Banks East	8:00	35	Shackleford Banks East	8:00
17	Cedar Island	7:00	36	Cedar Island	7:00
				January 19 - Sunday	
			37	Rarities Chase	7:30



Field Trip Descriptions



17 & 36: Cedar Island - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cedar-island>

Covering over 14,000 acres, Cedar Island NWR consists of sandy beach shoreline, marsh, and both maritime and upland forests. We will start with a brief stop to look for Seaside Sparrow. Any brushy area may hold a Sedge Wren, especially along Lola Road, and the shoreline adjacent the ferry terminal will allow shorebird viewing. The beach walk will be about a two-mile round trip with firmer and softer sand footing. Down the beach we can scope the ponds and water on the inland side of this spit from atop the dunes. We will also make a stop near the Ferry Road Bridge for sparrows and rails. There is a restroom at the ferry terminal, and picnic tables for our lunch. Bring your spotting scope if you have one, otherwise share those brought by the leaders. **Travel time:** One hour - we will bird going and coming back. **Difficulty** - Moderate. **Facilities** - limited, so bring a lunch and water.



Seaside Sparrow is one of the target species for the Cedar Island field trip.

16 & 35: Shackleford Banks East - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L674614>

This trip travels to a remote barrier island (no facilities) where we hope to find numbers of shorebirds, waders, and beach birds. This is an amazing opportunity to bird an area that is as natural as it gets in coastal North Carolina. We should have nice numbers and variety of shorebirds, with the possibility of Long-billed Curlew. This is the location where a Bar-tailed Godwit spent a number of recent winters. Access to the island is via “ferry”, a small open boat. Bring lunch, water, extra jacket and footwear that can withstand several inches of water. Conditions will be muddy in some marsh-side areas. Be prepared for cold, wind, and possible spray on the boat ride to and from the island. There is no dock on Shackleford, so participants will need to exit the boat onto the beach, possibly crossing shallow water for a short distance. If weather cancels the trip, alternate trips will be available on the mainland.

Among the birds we hope to see: Red-throated Loon, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, Northern Gannet, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson’s Plover, and Marbled Godwit. In addition, a few the wild ponies may be in the area. **Travel time** - 1:05. The ferry departs from 1800 Island Road, Hackers Island at 10:00 am. **This trip requires purchase of ferry transportation at \$24/person** - pay at

the ferry terminal or book online. **Difficulty** – Possible spray, walking on soft sand and mud. **Facilities** - at the ferry terminal.

1,8,19 & 27: North River Wetland Preserve - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1023805>

North River Preserve is managed by the North Carolina Coastal Federation. This is an area of over 6,000 acres that is being restored from farmland to upland and lowland forest, freshwater and tidal wetlands, and open water and mudflats. The restoration effort provides excellent habitat for passerines, shorebirds and wintering ducks. Since access is limited to this property, take advantage of this opportunity to learn about habitat restoration efforts while birding once of the best hotspots in the area. The possibility of a rare bird is good! **Travel time:** 55 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy - In and out of car several times. **Facilities** - None **Cost:** \$5/person, payable at the gate by cash or check.

2,9,20 & 28: Fort Macon State Park - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L387768>



Common Eider is a possible species at Fort Macon State Park.

The birdwatching at Fort Macon State Park is enriched by the surrounding Atlantic Ocean, Newport River, Beaufort Inlet, and Fort Macon Creek, all facing the Morehead City Channel. Birds frequently fly over the park, moving to and from these nearby water bodies. Pelagic birds can occasionally be spotted near Shackleford Banks on the horizon or over the channels. Occasionally, catch a glimpse of a Common Eider or Great Cormorant. With such a diverse landscape, one never knows what delightful avian surprises may appear. **Travel time:** 25 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate, with some unlevel ground and beach walking. **Facilities:** On-site.

4,11,22 & 30: Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods Park

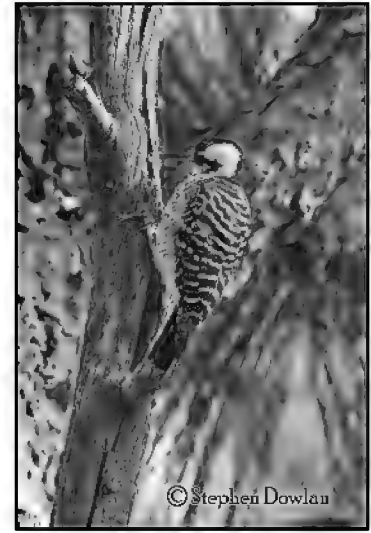
The *Cedar Point Tideland Trail* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L579948>) provides opportunities to view salt marsh and upland pine/hardwood-associated bird species. A combination of raised boardwalks and paths cross the marsh and pine/hardwood communities as the trail winds around along the edge of the White Oak River Estuary. Snags offer good chances to view woodpecker species, including Red-headed Woodpecker. The trail offers a nice view of the tidal marsh with opportunities to view herons, egrets, and Osprey.

At *Emerald Isle Woods Park* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2153912>), get a glimpse of how Emerald Isle must have looked when it was completely undeveloped, covered in dense trees. In total, the park stretches over 41 acres of forest. This is an under- birded area – who knows what surprise it may present! **Travel time:** 10 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy with some boardwalk. **Facilities:** On-site.

5,12,23 & 31: Patsy Pond at Croatan National Forest & Gallants Channel

Patsy Pond (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L741082>) is part of the Croatan National Forest and winds through an open woodland of longleaf pine forest. Red-cockaded Woodpecker can be found here year-round. We will look for active cavity trees marked with blue bands.

Trails at *Gallants Channel* (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L14406635>) traverse woods, wetlands, coastal habitats, and the improved waterfront area of the Gallants Channel site. This area offers opportunities to see various wading birds and shorebirds along the waterfront, including herons, egrets, terns, gulls, pelicans, Black Skimmers, and American Oystercatchers. The trails have been designed to access several habitats. **Travel time:** 15 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** Close by.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a year-round resident at Patsy Pond, Croatan National Forest.

3,10,21 & 29: Hoop Pole Nature Trail & Calico Creek

Hoop Pole Creek Natural Area (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L606265>) includes a 0.5-mile trail that follows Hoop Pole Creek out to Bogue Sound, passing through maritime forest for much of the walk and ending with views of coastal salt marsh. A variety songbirds may be seen in the wooded areas – Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet are frequent. We will scan the creek and marsh areas for Northern Harrier, Osprey, Marsh Wren, and wading birds, and we will look and listen for rails.

Calico Creek Boardwalk (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L983859>) is a noted spot on the North Carolina Birding Trail and is a unique destination that's hidden among local houses and businesses. The boardwalk provides opportunities to see wintering waterfowl and water birds. **Travel time:** 25 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** Close by.

6: Shorebird ID Workshop and Field Birding

The shorebird workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as overall profiles, foraging behaviors, and habitat which can aid birders at all experience levels to quickly and confidently identify shorebirds to species. We will review all shorebird families, but our primary focus will be Charadriidae (plovers) and Scolopacidae (sandpipers). If you're interested in refining your "peep" identification skills, then please join me in this discussion-based workshop. **Location:** Hotel - off site field locations to be determined by the leader. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Facilities:** At the hotel.

25: Birding from Day 1 to Day 10,000 (Birding 101)

This is a trip for newer birders and those more experienced who want to gain tips for identifying birdlife. Use of binoculars and using bird shapes to home in on a species will allow you to feel comfortable using the field guide of your choice. Don't be surprised to learn long time birders must practice these skills too! **Travel time:** Dictated by the leader's choice of birding sites. **Difficulty:** Easy? **Facilities:** At the hotel.

14 & 33: Rachel Carson Reserve at High Tide -

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L899138> &

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1273924>

Take a short ride on an open boat to this unspoiled island just across the channel from Beaufort. More than 200 species of birds have been observed at the site, which is on the Atlantic Flyway and is an important feeding area for Piping Plovers and other wintering birds. Meet at the hotel then proceed to the Islander Ferry Adventure at 610 Front Street on the waterfront in the Beaufort. At the terminal use the restroom as there are no facilities available after this point. When we beach the boat for our 3-to-4-hour visit, expect a slim chance for water underfoot while getting ashore. If weather cancels the boat, alternate trips will be available on the mainland. We will plan our trip to coincide with high tide when the greatest concentration of shorebirds will be present. **Travel time:** 20 minutes. **Difficulty:** Moderate, with extensive walking, some on sand. **Facilities:** None. **Cost:** \$20 for the Rachel Carson Ferry which has to be paid for at time of registration. The maximum number of attendees is 20.



Marbled Godwit is one of the shorebird species found at Rachel Carson Preserve in January.

13, 24 & 32: Atlantic Beach Pier - Handicap Accessible - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1068007>

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for nearshore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or some shearwaters. No fee is required to access the pier. **Travel time:** 35 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Handicap Accessible Facilities:** Nearby

37: Search for Rarities: Attempts to relocate rarities that had been seen over the weekend.



Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 18 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org



Emerald Isle, NC Registration Form

**Registration Begins Dec 7th @ 2 pm. Register Online for
Best Availability of Field Trips at**

www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice	To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.
Friday	/	/	/	
Saturday	/	/	/	

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$45 = \$ _____

Ferry Fee Rachel Carson Trip 14 & 33 _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Meeting registration at the door costs \$45.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader’s assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

CBC Bonus Trip: Warbler Road

May 10-11, 2025

By Steve Shultz

A road paved with warblers? Almost! Virginia's famous "Warbler Road" has long been known as an opportunity to enjoy seeing and hearing most of the Southeast's montane breeding warblers in one day. Dropping from the crest of the Blue Ridge to the James River valley, this series of interconnected forest roads passes through breeding habitat used by Canada, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Kentucky, Worm-eating, Black-throated Green, and Pine Warblers, Ovenbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, and more. Add in Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, vireos, thrushes, and others, and a May trip to the mountains north of Roanoke, Virginia can be nothing less than magical.

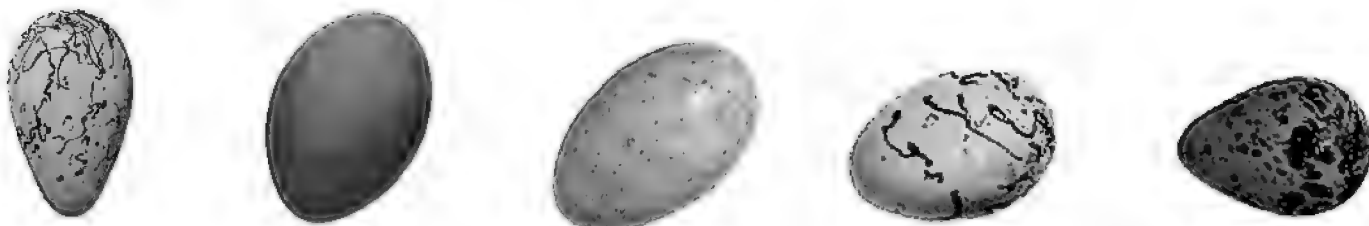
But it gets better, for within a short distance are riverine habitats preferred by Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, Yellow and Yellow-throated Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher and more. And if that were not enough, toss in a dash of open field birding for Grasshopper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and allies, along with a visit to one of the area's best spring migrant traps for Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, lingering waterfowl, spring shorebirds, and the occasional Black-billed Cuckoo, and you have the makings for a very special weekend.



Blackburnian Warbler is one of many warbler species that might be encountered at Virginia's famous "Warbler Road" during a spring migration visit.

Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we visit Warbler Road for a first ever (to this wonderful location) "bonus field trip weekend". If you've never seen or heard a Cerulean Warbler, this is the trip for you. While scarce in the Carolinas, this beautiful summer resident is almost common in Virginia's Blue Ridge... if you know where to look (and we do!). Your trip fee of \$125 covers guided birding all day Saturday, May 10 and the morning of Sunday, May 11. Participants are responsible for lodging, meals, and transportation. We limit this opportunity to 8 participants in order to provide the best possible experience.

Contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or 919-629-7226 for registration. Upon confirmation of your space on the trip, additional information on lodging, logistics, and frequently asked questions will be provided. Note that lodging in and north of Roanoke, Virginia is plentiful and reasonably priced at the time this trip is offered, but due to college graduations and other events, often sells out or becomes rather expensive closer to spring. Early reservations are recommended to ensure choice.



Fall Meet-ups a Success!

Fall Meeting Field Trip Summaries

In place of our traditional Fall seasonal meeting, CBC held day long meet-ups in the three geographic regions of North and South Carolina on successive Saturdays last month. Although Hurricane Helene foiled our plans in the mountains and Piedmont of South Carolina on September 28th, a group along the coast managed a fun day of birding. Turnout was lower than we hoped, but feedback from the gatherings was quite good. We have no plans anytime soon to repeat this meeting format, however we now know it is a possibility in the future.

North Carolina Coastal Option - 21 September, 2024

A total of eleven people joined the outing, including six new birders as CBC participants, three long-time members, one gentleman from Maine who joined us as he headed south, and our outstanding leader, Martin Wall.

Our first stop was the North River Wetland Preserve, which was indeed very wet. Despite the slow start, we were well on our way by 8:30 am, achieving a total of 54 species at the first stop. Four Kestrels provided quite a show with their interactions. We also topped out at five warbler species, with a total of 17 birds still in breeding plumage, all located within a 1/4-mile stretch.

Our second stop was Fort Macon State Park, which was bustling with many people enjoying their last days of summer. Despite the crowds, the birds were still present. Brown Pelicans were abundant, and we observed five species of Terns. On the more colorful side, we spotted Ruddy Turnstones and a pair of Painted Buntings at the feeders, which did not disappoint.

We topped out at a total of 63 species observed, showcasing the area's rich diversity of land and shorebirds.

North Carolina Piedmont Option - 21 September, 2024

The Fall 2024 NC Piedmont CBC trip was both successful and enjoyable for participants and leaders alike. About fifteen attendees and several leaders, joined by helpful local birders out and about, enjoyed a variety of Fall migrants at Ebenezer Point and Buckhorn Dam in Chatham County. Highlights included Bay-breasted (which has been much less numerous this year than last), Cape May, and Blackburnian Warblers, providing several attendees their lifer looks, along with Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. But the star of the show was an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron, who sat cooperatively in a tree and gave everyone a long look!



The star of the North Carolina Piedmont meeting was an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron, who sat cooperatively in a tree and gave everyone a long look!

North Carolina Mountain Option - 21 September, 2024

Twelve birders started the day at Jackson Park in Hendersonville – one of the preeminent sites to experience fall migration in western North Carolina. We were treated to a classic day of migration at the park, finding 14 species of warblers, including good views of a rare Golden-winged Warbler. Another good find was a rare flyover Red-headed Woodpecker. After a picnic lunch, we headed to the Blue Ridge Parkway for a hawk watch at the Mills River Valley Overlook. There we were treated to a pair of adult Bald Eagles that flew directly overhead, a kettle of over 100 Broad-winged Hawks, and another Red-headed Woodpecker. What a great complement to our morning woodland birding! We ended the day with 58 species and a dozen very happy birders.



These intrepid CBC birders spent the morning at Jackson Park in Henderson County on 21 September, 2024.



Hurricane Helene Has Changed the Mountain Landscape That CBC Birders Will See

By Steve Dowlan



Hurricane Helene slammed into the mountains of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and western South Carolina on September 27 and 28, adding a massive amount of rain to already saturated soils. As you have undoubtedly seen on every kind of news and social media outlet, this storm was like nothing anyone had ever seen. Records for rainfall and floodwater depth were broken, and homes, vehicles, property, public utilities, and lives were lost in a matter of hours. Left without cell service or internet, most of us had no idea how much rain had fallen, and many mountain residents did not understand the full scope of the storm and the damage it left in their area for days.

I was the first out of my neighborhood to survey the damage around my home in the Watauga County High Country on Friday afternoon, just after the winds subsided. Here, the difference between the affected and the unaffected was proximity and orientation to even the smallest ditch and intermittent stream. If a home was perched high enough between any water features and the slope below held, everything looks eerily unchanged. If the next house down the road was across from a culvert or stream, the road, any culverts, bridges, yards, driveways, and vehicles might have been swept away or destroyed on-site and debris was carried miles downstream. Simple topography was the factor that determined the amount of destruction that occurred.

Other than a few down trees and some erosion around our entrance bridge, my neighborhood came through unscathed... we were lucky. For a little less than a day, we could not get to Boone, just a few miles away. Our power was restored late on Friday – out for only about eight hours – so we could at least host other friends and families who had no power, no internet and no cell phone service. This lasted for almost two weeks for some. With no way to call or contact friends via digital media, news was conveyed in the old-fashioned way... we talked to one another face-to-face.

My experience here was nothing compared to what happened elsewhere in the mountains, and for many, recovery from the storm will take months or years... maybe even a lifetime. As local communities recuperate, they will need your business from “down the mountain.” Some towns were less affected and are ready for visitors and the money they bring now. My local communities of Boone and Blowing Rock are among them. Other communities need you to stay away a while longer so that they can clean-up, grieve and rebuild. In some areas, including favorite birding locations, “you can’t get there from here” will be in effect for a while longer.

As of October 23, only a 20-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) in North Carolina is open between milepost 285.5 at Bamboo Gap to milepost 305 near Beacon Heights, in the Blowing Rock area. Some trails and facilities in this section are still closed to all entry. The rest of the BRP is closed in North Carolina, including to foot traffic. Check <https://www.blueridgeparkway.org/> for the latest on BRP

closures. The Parkway is kind of the “artery” of High Country birding activities, and it is the most visited national park unit in the United States, with 16.7 million visitors in 2023. I’m sure all of us will be shocked to find out what parts of the road looked like after the storm, although after seeing what happened to other public roads near my home, my shock might be a little less. Nonetheless, I’m hopeful that all of us will be able to visit the rest of the western counties for our mountain specialties.

So, please check any available resources before you head into the mountains for birding adventures during the next few months. Visit North Carolina has released a helpful interactive map (<https://www.visitnc.com/advisory/cAdA/hurricane-helene-travel-advisory>) that shows the most up-to-date road closures, areas that you should avoid, and where it is safe to travel. If you have friends and acquaintances in the areas you hope to visit, check with them for real-time updates. Mountain people are resilient and self-reliant, and your sensitivity and respect for their struggles and needs will go a long way toward creating a welcoming atmosphere for visiting birders. Be patient, be kind, and be helpful, please.

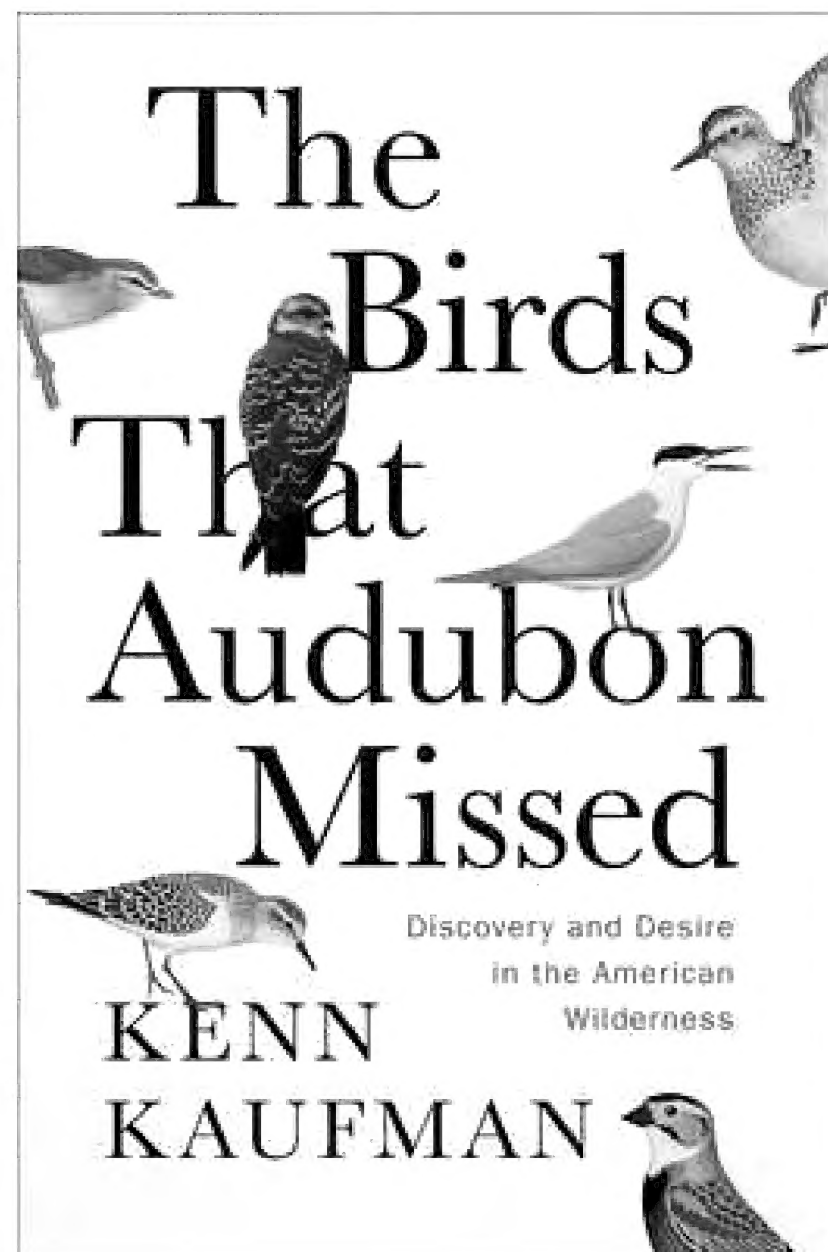
Birders Book Review:
The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery
and Desire in the American Wilderness by
Kenn Kaufman

2024, Hardcover; 400 pgs. ISBN: 9781668007594

What’s in a name? A lot as it turns out. One of the biggest news stories in recent birding history is the announcement that American eponymous names are on the way out, to be replaced with less controversial, and presumably more descriptive, common English monikers. No matter where one’s views might be on that topic, the history of how birds received their names fascinates.

Whole books have been written on the subject and make fascinating reading. Kenn Kaufman’s *The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery and Desire in the American Wilderness* is not that book. Although the often-fascinating stories behind common English are weaved throughout, Kaufmann’s latest offering marries anecdotes, personalities, science, and especially art into an engaging, thought-provoking, and enjoyable read.

Blending fascinating biographies of early naturalists exploring frontiers of a “new” continent, an artist’s critique of perhaps the most famous avian painting collection in the world, John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*, and poignant thoughts on natural history, Kaufman leads us on an entertaining, roller-coaster journey through one of this work’s most



interesting threads, why did Audubon and contemporaries miss certain species of birds familiar to current day observers?

Certainly, modern day tools allow biologists to separate species not obvious morphologically, but how did species clearly separable by visual observation or, as was common at the time, in the hand after collection at the end of a shotgun fly undetected at a time when finding and naming new birds was a contemporaneous Oscars race? Kaufmann chews on this question while grabbing and intertwining personal memories, an artist's eye, and a philosopher's mind, all the while backed by painstaking original source documentation.



The title's promise of Discovery is answered by questions including: How was Lincoln's Sparrow discovered and who is it named after? What, exactly, is a Small Headed Flycatcher? Where can one find a Washington Sea-Eagle? And why are some of the species depicted in Birds of America postured that way?

And perhaps most importantly, was John James Audubon worth the praise that his image garners today? The title's promise of Desire recounts the fascinating and intense race to claim, as one's own, the bounty of new species found in fledgling North America.

The Birds That Audubon Missed offers all of this and more. If you or someone you know (and it is the holiday season!) appreciates history, loves birds, or simply likes a good story, this book is for you. I guarantee that you will enjoy.

Steve Shultz

Project FeederWatch Season Starts November 1



Friday, November 1, is the first day to count birds for FeederWatch's 38th season. If you haven't signed up yet, [join today](#)! Remember, you don't need feeders to participate, and you can count for as little time as you want.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Project FeederWatch is sponsored in the U.S. and Canada by [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) and in Canada by [Armstrong Bird Food](#).



Carolina Bird Club
1800 Meadow Ave.,
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Banner Elk, NC 28604
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at Emerald Isle, NC – January 16-19, 2025

Spring Meeting at Fletcher, NC – April 26-27, 2025

Fall 2025 meeting in the South Carolina Low Country (exact destination TBA)

CBC Board Members

President

Susan Campbell, Apex, NC
susan@ncaves.com

Vice Presidents

Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC
Katie Greenberg, Arden, NC
Julie Davis, Pawleys Island, SC

Secretary

Karaleah Reichart, Raleigh, NC

Treasurer

Mark Songer, Greenville, SC

NC Members-at-Large

Kevin Burke, Hendersonville, NC
Betsy Kane, Washington, NC
Robert Lewis, Durham, NC
Paul Laurent, Banner Elk, NC

SC Members-at-Large

Richard Hayes, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Roberts, Columbia, SC

Immediate Past President: Steve Tracy, Apex, NC

Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC

Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary: Amanda Laurent, Banner Elk, NC, hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor: Steve Dowlan, Vilas, NC, newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadline for submission of Volume 71, Issue 1 is
December 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*, which is only available on line. Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 1800 Meadow Ave., Banner Elk, NC 28604. Copyright © 2024.